

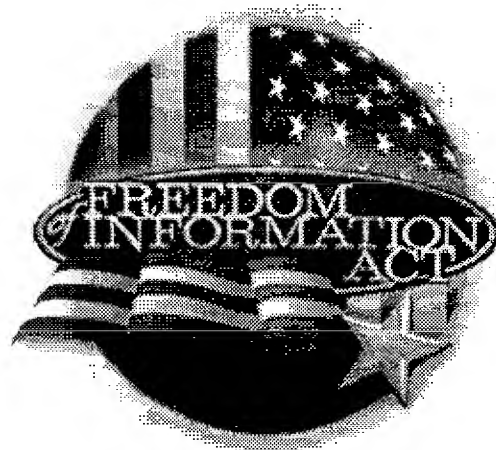


FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

FILE NUMBER: 100-4712

PART: 9 OF 19



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT America First Committee

FILE NO. 100-4712

SECTION NO. 9

SERIALS 404

through

457

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
CASE ORIGINATED AT **Chicago, Illinois**

FILE NO. **100-1726**

REPORT MADE AT St. Louis, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 5/28/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/26, 27/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: St. Louis chapter of America First Committee organized in March, 1941, by eight persons. Chapter incorporated on July 17, 1941. Numerous anti-war rallies held in St. Louis, Missouri, with CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, GERALD P. NYE, Mrs. BENNETT ELANK, HAMILTON FISH, and others appearing as speakers. JOSEPH FORSHAW was chairman of St. Louis chapter; OSCAR E. BUDER, first vice chairman; OSCAR C. URMAN, second vice chairman; and IVAN H. LIGHT, treasurer. Known pro-Nazi persons alleged to have actively supported organization in St. Louis. Newspapers have reported St. Louis chapter dissolved on December 9, 1941. Available membership list set out.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated March 16, 1942. DATE **10-19-90** **319,518**

DETAILS:

On March 4, 1941, the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat," a St. Louis, Missouri, newspaper, carried an article telling of the organization of a St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee. This news article stated CHARLES P. MULDOON, a St. Louis attorney, had reported the committee members of the temporary executive committee for the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee were LUTHER ELY SMITH, JR., Mrs. E. T. SENSENEY, Reverend EDWARD DOWLING, S. J., Mrs. JOHN W. SEDDON, IVAN H. LIGHT, J. PORTER HENRY, JR., and DAVID P. FERRIS. This news article announced that the latter two named individuals were newspaper men. This article advised MULDOON was temporary chairman of the St. Louis chapter at that time, and he issued a statement in which he said: "This is not a pacifist organization but we do feel that the best interests of America and of the world demand that we stay out of this war."

APPROVED AND FORWARDED [Signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	BA 100-1726-4 JUN 19 1942	RECORDED INDEXED b7c
COPIES DESTROYED 4/24/77 #16 100-1726-4 BUREAU CHICAGO ST. LOUIS JUN 19 1942		

It was further learned that on March 4, 1941, Mrs. BENNETT CHAMP CLARK, wife of Senator CLARK, spoke at a meeting for women held at the Jefferson Hotel, St. Louis. There were about 125 women in attendance, and the meeting was sponsored by the America First Committee.

One of the first large meetings held under the sponsorship of the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee was held on April 4, 1941, at the Opera House in the Municipal Auditorium, St. Louis. A detailed report made on this meeting reflected 3,500 persons were in attendance at this meeting. The speakers were PHILIP L. LAFOLETTE of Wisconsin, who spoke on the subject "Convoys to Britain," and JOHN T. FLYNN of New York, who spoke on the subject "Shall We Be Dupes?" It is of special interest to note as to who the persons were who served as sponsors for this first major meeting of the St. Louis chapter. The names of these sponsors, were:

- Mrs. B. F. BOWLES, St. Louis League of Women Voters and leader in Colored Groups
- Mrs. HENRY F. CHADEAYNE, League of Women Voters, D. A. R., and prominent leader in many activities
- Mrs. BENNETT CHAMP CLARK, wife of the Senator
- Reverend EDWARD DOWLING, S. J., Associate Editor of "Queen's Work"
- ALPHONSE G. EBERLE, Dean of St. Louis University Law School
- STERLING E. EDMUNDS, prominent attorney
- HENRY T. FERRISS, prominent attorney
- W. C. FERGUSON, President, Prestite Engineering Company
- JOSEPH FORSHAW, Forshaw-St. Louis
- TALTON T. FRANCIS, Francis Bro. & Company, Brokers
- J. PORTER HENRY, prominent attorney and counsel for the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch"
- BOSCOE HOBBS, President, Hobbs-Western Company
- Mrs. ARTHUR KANSTEINER, President, Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Canon CHRISTIAN H. KEHL, Christ Church Cathedral
- Dr. ERVINE INGLIS, First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, Mo.
- IVAN H. LIGHT, attorney and temporary treasurer of the Committee
- ROBERT LOGSDON, Regional Organizer for CIO Electrical Workers Union
- JOSEPH A. McCLAIN, Dean of Washington University Law School
- JOSEPH MacNUTT, well known artist
- CHARLES F. MULDOON, attorney and temporary chairman of the Committee
- Father MARTIN O'MALLEY, head of Kaurick Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo.
- SIDNEY R. REIMOND, President, National Bar Association, and prominent Negro leader
- Mrs. CHARLES W. RODEWALD, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, League of Women Voters, and other activities
- J. FRED SCHLAFLY, Mountain Valley Water Company
- Mrs. JOHN W. SEDDON, temporary executive secretary of the Committee
- Mrs. E. T. SENSENEY, League of Women Voters and many other activities

LUTHER ELY SMITH, SR., prominent attorney and civic leader
E. C. STEWART, Vice President, First National Bank in St. Louis
Reverend GEORGE E. SWEAZEY, Tyler Place Presbyterian Church
Mrs. RALPH W. THAYER, League of Women Voters, American Civil
Liberties Union, and many other activities

The report on this meeting advised \$992.42 in cash was collected at the meeting. [REDACTED] added the statement that St. Louis is a city notorious for resistance to collections, and that the sum collected was very satisfactory. GEORGE MUELLER was listed as the head usher, and it should be noted it was this same person who acted as attorney for the officers of the St. Louis chapter when they filed their petition for incorporation. The [REDACTED] report on this meeting also made considerable excuse of the fact that a steady rain had preceded the meeting intermittently during the day. The officers were certain that the unfavorable weather conditions prevented a much larger crowd than was in attendance. A detailed report of this meeting, [REDACTED] is being retained in the St. Louis file.

Another anti-war rally was held at the Roosevelt High School Auditorium, St. Louis, on the night of April 18, 1941. At this meeting, 450 people were in attendance and Congressman J. EDGAR CHENOWETH, Republican of Colorado, was the principal speaker.

Still another meeting was held at the Webster Groves High School, Webster Groves, Missouri, at which five hundred people were in attendance and CARL CURTIS, Congressman from the Fourth Nebraska District, was a speaker as was Congressman CHENOWETH.

Some minor difficulties were experienced by the St. Louis chapter when they attempted to secure the services of the band of Musicians' Post # of the American Legion for a brief concert at a rally at which CHARLES A. LINDBERGH was to be the principal speaker. Newspapers carried accounts of the trouble, which resulted when MARTIN A. BEFFA, chairman of the American Legion's Commanders' Conference, St. Louis, refused to give the American Legion band permission to play at the meeting. One newspaper article disclosed J. H. ALIGHT, chairman of the committee for arrangements for the LINDBERGH special had stated the Arena was to cost \$1,000.00 for the night and the American Legion band was to be paid \$300.00. A newspaper article later told of the trouble being settled when the Musicians' Post agreed their band would appear at the meeting but would not wear American Legion uniforms and would be introduced only as a band from the Musicians' Post.

An observation which appeared in one of the St. Louis newspapers June 1, 1941, told of the fact that the Committee to Defend America by the Allies was attempting to counteract the propaganda of the America First Committee in St. Louis. The Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies announced publicly that they were to hold a rally in the near future, a Senator CLAUDE PEPPER and Major MAL VIVIER were to be the principal speakers.

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On May 3, 1941, the largest anti-war rally sponsored by the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee was held in the Arena in St. Louis, and CHARLES A. LINDBERGH was the principal speaker. The newspapers estimated there were eighteen thousand persons in attendance at this meeting. Various informants reported soon after this meeting that when they attended the rally, they noticed a number of known St. Louis pro-Nazi persons in attendance at the rally. One informant reported he was certain he saw [redacted] at the meeting.

[redacted] of the St. Louis chapter of the German-American Bund. Her attendance is made more of a certainty by the report of a leader of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of St. Louis, who reported he had forwarded to [redacted] some pro-America and pro-Administration propaganda, to which [redacted] replied that she did not care to receive any more of such material, and that this official of the Veterans of Foreign Wars should give more attention to the America First Committee and such individuals as CHARLES A. LINDBERGH.

On May 18, 1941, a news article appeared in the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch," a St. Louis newspaper, telling that the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee had set up twelve booths throughout St. Louis to enable the public to send messages of protest to their Senators and Congressmen, protesting against the use of convoys or United States intervention in the war. This article advised the America First Committee was furnishing to any person who desired it a form of telegram, postal card, or letter to be used, and would even furnish postage, if requested.

Another news article appearing several days later merely mentioned the activities of the America First Committee in St. Louis, and referred to IVAN H. LIGHT as the treasurer of the chapter.

Of special interest was an article appearing in the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" on May 24, 1941, telling of the fact that JOSEPH FORSHAW, former St. Louis athlete and Olympic marathon runner, had accepted the chairmanship of the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee. Mr. FORSHAW is better known at this time as a stove and parts manufacturer.

Another anti-war rally was held on June 27, 1941, at St. George's Church Hall, Gravois and Heega Roads, Affton, Missouri. The speaker for the rally was Congressman KNUTE NELL, Democrat from the state of Washington.

Publicity was also given to the fact that on July 17, 1941, the St. Louis chapter filed in the State Circuit Court at St. Louis a petition asking that a decree be issued, authorizing the incorporation of the St. Louis chapter. It is noted information is contained in the report of Special Agent [redacted] Kansas City, Missouri, dated May 15, 1942, that the records of the Secretary of State, Jefferson City, Missouri, reflect the America First Committee of St. Louis was granted a pro forma decree of incorporation on July 17, 1941. However, those records in Jefferson City do not disclose this incorporation has ever been cancelled.

On August 1, 1941, another anti-war rally was sponsored by the St. Louis chapter at the Municipal Auditorium, St. Louis. There were 2,600 persons in attendance, and U. S. Senator GERALD P. NYE of North Dakota was the speaker.

On September 5, 1941, JOSEPH FORSHAW announced publicly that a special anti-war rally was to be held at the Municipal Auditorium in St. Louis on September 17, 1941. He reported Representative HAMILTON FISH was to be the principal speaker.

It was known from the very beginning of the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee that Dean JOSEPH A. McCLAIN, JR., of the Washington University School of Law was a prominent member of the St. Louis chapter. However, on September 28, 1941, the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" carried an article telling of the resignation of Dean McCLAIN and Professor E. E. HILPERT from membership in the St. Louis chapter. Professor HILPERT is also a faculty member at the Washington University School of Law. It was announced upon the receipt of these resignations that both Dean McCLAIN and Professor HILPERT had resigned because of the pressure of other national defense duties. However, the newspaper learned the real reason for the resignation of these two prominent members was that CHARLES A. LINDBERGH had publicly criticized the Jews. These resignations were based on LINDBERGH's statement that, "The Roosevelt Administration, England, and the Jews are forcing America to war." Dean McCLAIN announced he had been sympathetic to the anti-war cause long before the America First Committee was formed, and that he no longer desired to be connected with an organization that injected anti-Semitic issues in the anti-war campaign.

On October 16, 1941, another large rally of the St. Louis chapter was held at the Municipal Auditorium in St. Louis. Mrs. BENNETT CHAMP CLARK and Mrs. ROBERT A. TAFT were the principal speakers. This meeting was picketed by members of the American Youth Congress in St. Louis, and these pickets were in turn picketed by the National Legion of the Mothers of America. This rally was considered to be principally a women's meeting. This picketing by the American Youth Congress is of special interest due to the fact that IVAL H. LIGHT has often been referred to as being Communisticly-inclined and at the American Youth Congress members picketed the organization of which LIGHT was the recognized treasurer.

On November 5, 1941, the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" reported a debate was to be held on the question "Resolved: That This is not Our War." The debate was to be between VICTOR HARRIS, attorney, member of the America First Committee, and leader in the Civil Liberties Union, and W. L. GREGORY, an official of the Plaza Bank in St. Louis, who is recognized as an economist and lecturer, and who was representing in this debate the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.

Another newspaper article appearing on December 6, 1941, told of a \$100,000.00 libel suit filed by the Leader Printing and Publishing Company, publishers of the "St. Louis County Leader," against JOSEPH FORSHAW, chairman

of the St. Louis chapter. The petition filed alleged FORSHAW had denounced the plaintiff's editorial policy, which the newspaper reported as being strong pro-American.

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Concerning the propaganda efforts of the St. Louis chapter, as item was outstanding. There was furnished to the St. Louis Office by a confidential source a copy of a letter which had been addressed to the parents of [REDACTED] of the U. S. Army. This letter to [REDACTED]'s parents was dated July 22, 1941, and was on the letterhead of the St. Louis Chapter, America First Committee, 705 Olive Street, St. Louis. The letter was addressed "Dear Fellow Americans." The letter went on to say that as parents of a young man recently inducted into the armed forces of the United States, these parents of this service man were, probably more than anyone else, interested in the welfare and future of the United States. The letter reminded the parents that Government Administration leaders had solemnly promised that their boy was to be sent to a training camp for one year only, and that he was being trained solely for the defense of the Western Hemisphere. The letter went on to say that now that the boys are in camp and in no position to protest, the Administration proposed to extend their time of service indefinitely. The letter further stated the America First Committee considered this proposal a breach of the solemn covenant entered into between this body and the United States of America. The parents were urged to write their Congressmen and Senators and the President, telling them they did not want their son to die in Europe's eternal wars. The parents were also urged to emphasize the fact that this is not our war. The closing paragraph of the letter reminded the parents that the America First Committee is doing its best to keep this country out of the European war. It requested them, if not already members of the America First Committee, to sign the enclosed membership card at once. The letter was written over the signatures of JOSEPH FORSHAW, chairman, and OSCAR E. HUNTER, vice chairman.

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[REDACTED] furnished the St. Louis Office with a copy of the petition filed by the St. Louis chapter in the Circuit Court for the City of St. Louis, asking that the St. Louis chapter be granted articles of incorporation. There was also enclosed with the petition a written copy of the articles of association and a preliminary statement regarding this committee. Also furnished by this same source was a list of 1 of directors of the America First Committee in St. Louis and also what to be a complete membership list. The membership list furnished at the petition was filed in the Circuit Court at St. Louis is as follows:

F. A. ALBERT

President,
Paper Com

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Mrs. DOROTHY BARDWELL
Mrs. B. F. BOWLES
Mrs. A. S. BOYD
INGRAM F. BOYD, JR.

Vice pres

✓ Mrs. I. P. ROYD
✓ Mrs. DUDLEY BRADON
✓ OSCAR E. BUDER
✓ Mrs. H. F. CHADRAYNE

Lawyer
Wife of Secretary of
General American Life
Insurance Company

✓ E. G. COBB

✓ JOHN REZEMAN

✓ LEROY P. DINGES
✓ Father EDWARD DOWLING, S. J.
✓ Dean ALPHONSE G. REEBLE

St. Louis University School of
Law,

✓ STERLING E. EDMUNDS
✓ EDITH S. ETHERINGTON
✓ JOHN FAUST
✓ Mrs. JOHN FAUST
✓ W. C. FERGUSON

Lawyer

Lawyer
Wife of Attorney FAUST
President, Presstite
Engr. Company
Physician
Lawyer
Lawyer
Forshaw of St. Louis
Assoc. Francis Bro.
& Company

✓ Dr. DAVID P. FERRISS
✓ HENRY T. FERRISS
✓ WARNER FISCHER
✓ JOSEPH FORSHAW
✓ TALTON T. FRANCIS

✓ Professor WARNER FULLER
✓ ELIZABETH GEMPP

✓ CHARLES J. GEVECKER

President, Gevecker
Sheet Metal Works

✓ JOHN E. GIBSON, JR.

✓ Mrs. R. B. GRIESEDECK
✓ JAMES H. GROVER

President, St. Louis
Union Trust Company

✓ E. M. HARFORD

✓ EMIL HARRIS

President, Peter
Hauptman Tobacco Co
Lawyer
President-Treasurer
Hauck Bakery

✓ VICTOR HARRIS
✓ CHRISTIAN HAUCK

✓ HENRY J. HEITNER
✓ Dr. HEIMREICH
✓ J. PORTER HENRY, JR.

Assistant Secretary
Optimist International

✓ Professor E. E. HILPERT

✓ E. C. HOBBS

✓ FRED J. HOPFMEISTER
✓ Reverend ERVINE P. INGLIS

✓ Mrs. ROSE T. JONES
✓ MILTON G. KAHLE

✓ C. H. KAMMANN

✓ K. P. KAMMANN

✓ BERNHARD KEISER

✓ Mrs. B. KEISER

✓ FRED C. KLINGBEIL
✓ Mrs. C. W. KOCH
✓ HARRY G. KOERBER
✓ JOS. W. KOESTERS
✓ Mrs. F. J. V. KREBS
✓ IRMA C. KROENLEIN

✓ B. K. LEACH

✓ MARIE LEUBENBERG

✓ JOS. M. LEWIS, JR.
✓ IVAN H. LIGHT
✓ DON LOHBECK
✓ VIRGINIA LOHBECK
✓ JOHN R. LONGMIRE
✓ Miss MARTHA LOVE

✓ ROBERT L. LUND

✓ Mrs. EUGENE MCCARTHY
✓ Dean JOS. A. McCLAIN, JR.

✓ ALAN M. MacNEAN

✓ J. SCOTT MacNUTT
✓ Mrs. J. S. MacNUTT
✓ D. D. MEIER
✓ ALVIN H. METELMAN
✓ GLENN L. MOLLER

President, Hobbs-
Western Company
Lawyer
First Congregational
Church, Webster Groves

Vice president,
German House
Secretary, Ste.
Genevieve Line Company,
East St. Louis, Illinois
Chemist

Upholsterer

Retired

Wife of Dr. F. J. V. KREBS
Teacher

Lumber

Secretary, Meyer Supply
Company, 816 South Taylor
Lawyer
Lawyer

Broker
Daughter of EDW. K.
LOVE, Realtor
Vice president, Lambert
Pharmaceutical Company

Washington University
Law School

Portrait artist

Lawyer

- b7c

✓ GEO. P. MUELLER
✓ CHARLES P. MULDOON
✓ HENRY H. OBERSCHLIP
✓ Reverend MARTIN J. O'MALLEY
✓ Professor OSCAR C. ORMAN

Lawyer
Lawyer
Lawyer
Kenrick Seminary
Washington University,
Skinker and Lindell
Lawyer

✓ WM. B. ORTHWEIN, JR.
✓ EDGAR M. QUEENY
✓ Mrs. LILLIE RASSIEUR

President, Barry-Wehmiller
Machinery Company

✓ FRED J. REBHOLZ
✓ Mrs. F. J. REBHOLZ
✓ Professor ALFRED M. REHWINKEL
✓ Mrs. A. W. REITER

Wife of Department
Manager, Mercantile-
Commerce Bank & Trust
Company

✓ D. F. RIMMANN

✓ D. F. RIMMANN, JR.

✓ FLORENCE A. ROBLER

✓ Mrs. RODEWALD

✓ ED. SCHELL

✓ Mrs. ADLAIDE M. SCHLAFLY

✓ DANIEL L. SCHLAFLY

✓ J. FRED SCHLAFLY

Secretary-Treasurer,
Mountain Valley Springs
Vice president, Security
Investment Company, 4120
Lindell

Wife of Dr. JOHN W. SEDD
Wife of Dr. E. T. SENSEN

✓ Mrs. JOHN W. SEDDON

✓ Mrs. E. T. SENSEN

✓ ELMER SEYFRIED

✓ Mrs. E. SEYFRIED

✓ LUTHER ELY SMITH, JR.

✓ LUTHER ELY SMITH, SR.

✓ A. T. STOVALL

Attorney
Attorney

✓ E. C. STUART

✓ JOHN F. STUCKENBERG

✓ S. L. SWARM

✓ Reverend GEO. E. SWAZZY

Pastor, Tyler Place
Presbyterian Church

✓ JENACHIA

✓ Mrs. H. A. TESSOR

✓ Mrs. L. H. WALTKE

✓ Mrs. MARIE WALTKE

✓ RICHARD H. WALTKE

Investments

7 b2c

Mrs. WEGENER
ROBT. A. WILLIER

EDWIN J. WINKELMEYER

E. ALLAN WYMAN
JOS. H. ZUMBALLEN

General Advertising
Agent, Wabash Railway

Broker
Secretary-Treasurer,
Washington University,
Skinker and Lindell

The petition for articles of incorporation filed by the St. Louis chapter reflected the following officers: JOSEPH FORSHAW, chairman; OSCAR E. BUDER, first vice chairman; OSCAR C. ~~Y~~ORMAN, second vice chairman; and IVAN H. LIGHT, treasurer.

The St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee maintained offices in Room 901 at 705 Olive Street, St. Louis. However, on December 9, 1941, the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" reported in a news article that a special meeting of the board of directors of the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee had been held at 705 Olive Street, St. Louis. At that time the St. Louis chapter was reported to have been dissolved. The article advised an affidavit of dissolution was prepared and was to be mailed on that day to the Secretary of State at Jefferson City, Missouri. The article stated the St. Louis chapter's articles of agreement provided for dissolution of the organization if and when the United States declared war. No further information is available at this time to indicate definitely that the St. Louis chapter is now inoperative. It is recalled the Kansas City Office has reported there is nothing in the records of the Secretary of State at Jefferson City to indicate the affidavit of dissolution was received at that office. The activities of the St. Louis chapter have been observed to have consisted chiefly of the holding of anti-war rallies and the conducting of almost constant membership drives to secure financial support for the committee.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

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The ST. LOUIS Office at St. Louis, Missouri, will contact [REDACTED] for any information in his possession relating to Nazi support of the St. Louis chapter of the America First Committee. The St. Louis Office will conduct investigation to determine whether an organization known as America for Peace has been organized in St. Louis. If this organization is found to exist, investigation should be conducted to determine the officers and members. The St. Louis Office will continue general, discreet investigation of the America First Committee in St. Louis to determine definitely if an underground organization is now operating in place of the former St. Louis chapter.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.**

FILE NO. **100-5606**

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY	DATE WHEN MADE 5/30/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/14, 16, 23, 30/42 5/26/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

America First Committee opened N.J. State Headquarters May 6, 1941. Moving spirit of organization has been Mrs. MARY HENNINGER, N.J. State Executive Secretary, whose motives appear to be honest and patriotic. America First Committee operated as a very loose knit organization in N.J. According to [REDACTED] it dissolved December 8, 1941, on orders from General WOODS. New Jersey Headquarters were closed on same date and all records were transmitted to General Woods. The organization sponsored a number of public rallies, featuring addresses by prominent Isolationists. All leaders of organization, contacted to date, deny that America First is still functioning. [REDACTED] tried to keep America First free of radical elements, making it a point to question prospective members along these lines. Rallies of organization in N.J. were generally well attended. Most active chapters appear to have been in Newark, and Jersey City, N.J. Membership in latter estimated at about 2,500, and in former at about 500.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/85 BY SP8mac
8241183 10-19-90
SP8BJJ/LCL

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to all SACs, dated 3/16/42.

DETAILS:

A review of the instant file discloses the following information in the Newark Field Division.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE [Signature]	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-925
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Chicago, Ill. 2 N.Y. 2 Newark		<div style="text-align: center;">JUN 6 1942</div> <div style="text-align: right;">b7c</div>
<p>COPIES DESTROYED 4/15/57</p>		EX-10

100-5606

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On July 9, 1941, [REDACTED] New Jersey, telephonically contacted the Newark Office, and advised that he had information concerning the activities of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in that city. He asked that he be contacted by an agent of this Bureau.

The file further reflected a clipping from the Westwood Chronicle, dated August 21, 1941, to the effect that the Pascack Valley Chapter of the America First Committee, held a peach festival on the preceding Saturday afternoon, on the grounds of the home of Mrs. A.R. O'TOOLE, of Washington Avenue, Westwood, N.J. It further reported that the chapter planned a card party and bazaar to be held in October, the proceeds of which were to be used for the benefit of the American soldiers in camp. It is also noted that the article reflected that this chapter meets twice a month, and that anyone interested in joining could do so by contacting Mrs. EDWARD SCHEN, 150 Washington Street, Westwood, N.J., Chairman of the Membership Committee, or by calling District Headquarters, 378 Main Street, Hackensack, N.J.

This clipping further stated that there would be two America First rallies on the following Friday night, one at Bergenfield Palace Hall, Bergenfield, N.J., and the other at the Memorial School in Passaic. Mrs. MICHAEL STRANGE, and Congressman HAMILTON FISH were to be the speakers in each instance.

A similar article appeared in the Westwood News, under date of August 21, 1941.

On July 12, 1941, [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the Newark Office, and advised that [REDACTED]

On July 6, 1941, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] received an anonymous request to start a chain letter to Christian fathers and Mothers all over America for the purpose of saving America.

[REDACTED], on July 25, 1941, advised the Newark Office, that on June 30, 1941, there was an AMERICA

100-5606

FIRST meeting in Jersey City, N.J. at 665 Newark Avenue. He further stated that the common talk among the persons at this meeting was "Why join the Navy and see the world from the bottom of the ocean." He stated that Mr. PHILLIP, State Secretary of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, is part of the organization, and [REDACTED] Hoboken, N.J. is an organizer. He stated further that [REDACTED] Jersey City, N.J. (residence [REDACTED] Jersey City, N.J.) also was at the meeting. [REDACTED] b7c

By letter, dated December 2, 1941, the Philadelphia Office of this Bureau, advised that from a confidential source, information had been obtained to the effect that the America First Committee, Camden Headquarters, located at 708 Federal Street, ran a two-column advertisement in the "Courier-Post" at Camden, on November 13, 1941, and called upon individuals to "halt the march of the war-maker" and to communicate immediately with Congressmen, expressing desire that they vote against repeal of the Neutrality Act. Mention was made of Congressman CHARLES A. WOLVERTON.

The Trenton Evening Times, of November 28, 1941, carried a story concerning a meeting of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, on the following Sunday to be held in the Central High School auditorium, Trenton, N.J. It stated that the principal address was to be given by the Reverend PAUL C. MARTIN, of St. Paul's Church, North Arlington, who is an Episcopal clergyman, and to speak on no-war.

The Trenton News, of the same day, carried a story regarding the same meeting, and listed the U.S. Senator BURTON K. WHEELER, of Montana, as an additional speaker.

[REDACTED] access was gained to the "morgue" of the Newark Evening News, and all references in that newspaper regarding the activities of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE are being hereinafter set forth. b2 b7D

March 12, 1941 - THOMAS MC CARTER, President of Public Service, of N.J. was one of the sixty-six individuals named by the National Headquarters of America First as having contributed \$100.00 or more to the organization.

December 14, 1940 - THOMAS MC CARTER, President of Public Service, of N.J., stated that he was a Committee Member of the AMERICA FIRST, had contributed to its finances and believed in its doctrines

- April 30, 1941 - The "No Foreign War Committee" was disbanded on advice of its leader ~~BYRNE MARSHALL~~, and members were advised to associate with ~~AMERICA FIRST~~.
- May 6, 1941 - ~~AMERICA FIRST~~ opened State Headquarters at 506 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, N.J.
- June 3, 1941 - R.M. ~~FULLE~~, Montclair, N.J. was given as the Organizer of the ~~AMERICA FIRST~~ in New Jersey, and its headquarters were given as 32 Commerce Street, Newark, N.J. With ~~FULLE~~ on the Organizing Committee were ROBERT B. ~~WILLIAMSON~~, of Shresbury, N.J.; H. ~~DUNLEY SWIM~~, of Summit, N.J.; and ~~CUTLER GODFREY~~, of Mahwah, N.J.
- July 15, 1941 - ~~WILLIAM PHILLIP~~, State Secretary of the ~~AMERICA FIRST~~ was to give an address that evening on ~~Present Events~~.
- July 16, 1941 - About one hundred individuals were present at an ~~AMERICA FIRST~~ meeting, addressed by ~~WILLIAM PHILLIP~~, and ~~ERNEST HAWKINS~~, President of the Christian Front Group, Newark, N.J. ~~PHILLIP~~ assailed Cabinet Members ~~STIMSON~~ and ~~KNOX~~, as the "two people who have done more to get us into war than any other two people." ~~PHILLIP~~ warned that trouble laid ahead for us should we attempt to seize Dakar. "Why should American boys commit suicide" he asked. ~~HAWKINS~~ stated "The oppositions of the people has caused ~~FRANKLYN ROOSEVELT~~ to retract from his war-like course, and the fact that he didn't make a fireside speech advocating an A.E.F. is a tribute to the work of the ~~AMERICA FIRST~~." ~~HAWKINS~~ also claimed that the foreign policy of the United States is made in London, by ~~WINSTON CHURCHILL~~.
- Sept. 13, 1941 - There was an announcement of an ~~AMERICA FIRST~~ rally on September 23, by Mrs. ~~MARY HENNINGER~~, Executive Secretary of the ~~America First~~, and Senator ~~WHEELER~~, and ex-senator ~~BUSH HOLT~~ were presented as speakers.
- Sept. 19, 1941 - An announcement of a meeting of the Corny Unit of the ~~AMERICA FIRST~~ was made, which was to be held soon, advised that it would be presided over by ~~ALLEN HARTLEY~~, son of Representative ~~HARTLEY~~ of New Jersey. The speakers were ~~GEORGE DYSON FRIOU~~, New York City Attorney, and Captain ~~GEORGE SMITH~~. ~~FRIOU~~ stated that a U.S. Senator

Had told him that this country had only two hundred fighting planes last Spring. He likened President Roosevelt with Mussolini. SMITH attacked the British Empire, for its policies over the past two hundred years. According to the Evening News, neither speaker expressed any condemnation of the Axis Powers, save a brief remark by FRIOU that he had no grief for Hitler.

September 20, 1941-There was an announcement of an AMERICA FIRST rally at the Mosque Theatre, in Newark, N.J., to be addressed by Senator NYE, and ex-Senator HOLT. The announcement of this rally brought a blast from KARL HOLDERMAN, State Chairman of the Labor Non-Partisan League, and also a prominent C.I.O. Official in N.J. HOLDERMAN belittled AMERICA FIRST for offering smug warnings to Jews to withdraw from public life, or else become sole targets of isolationist attacks. HOLDERMAN declared that NYE and other Isolationists leaders "intended the creation of social movement."

September 23, 1941-Professor JAMES O'CONNELL, of Seton Hall, was given as the Presiding Chairman at the AMERICA FIRST rally mentioned above. The reception committee for HOLT and NYE was to be headed by MILTON FULLE, and others on the committee were listed as Mrs. MARY HENNINGER, Mrs. VALENTINE MILLER, of Union, N.J., and Mrs. SEIFRIED, of Newark, N.J. and also Mrs. JOHNYRIELLY, of South Orange, N.J.

September 24, 1941-Attendance at the rally held the preceding night was given as between three thousand, and thirty-five hundred. The rally was featured by a bitter attack on Roosevelt and Willkie, by NYE and HOLT.

October 11, 1941- Representative FRANK B. KEEFE, of Wisconsin, was given as the speaker at an AMERICA FIRST rally to be held at the Elks auditorium of Elizabeth, N.J.

October 14, 1941- HAMILTON FISH, of New York, representative, and ex-senator RUSH HOLT, were listed as speakers at an AMERICA FIRST rally to be held at Dickinson High School, Jersey City, N.J.

October 14, 1941 - Congressman JEANETTE HANKIN, of Montana, spoke to the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE at a rally, in Elizabeth, N.J. in the Elks Auditorium. She asked the audience to lobby against the war.

October 15, 1941 - The presiding Chairman at the above mentioned meeting was listed as Miss MARCELLA CARROLL, Executive Chairman of the Hudson County Chapter of AMERICA FIRST.

October 16, 1941 - Representative HAMILTON FISH of New York, and ex-senator RUSH BOLT spoke at the Dickinson High School, Jersey City, N.J. with about two thousand being present. Resolutions were passed opposing aid to Russia, the occupation of Iceland, by U.S. troops, and the arming of merchant ships. The provisions of the Neutrality Act was also opposed and a request for a referendum on the question of war or peace was made. MARCELLA CARROLL presided at this rally.

October 21, 1941 - Professor JAMES O'CONNELL, of Seton Hall, and A.T. ATWELL of the New York City Chapter of AMERICA FIRST, were listed as speakers at a rally to be held that evening at 8:15 p.m. by the Orange, Maplewood Chapter of AMERICA FIRST.

November 5, 1941 - There was an ad in the Newark Evening News concerning a meeting of the AMERICA FIRST to be held at the Mosque Theatre, in Newark, on Armistice Day. Speakers were listed as "ALFALFA BILL" MERRAY, former Governor of Oklahoma; Congressman FRED A. BANTLEY, Jr.; and Professor JAMES O'CONNELL, of Seton Hall. In this ad the principal of AMERICA FIRST were listed as follows:

- (1) Our first duty is to keep America out of foreign wars. Our entry would destroy democracy, not save it.
- (2) We must build defense for our own shores so strong that no foreign power, or combinations of powers can invade our country by sea, land, or air.
- (3) Not by acts of war abroad, but by peace and extending democracy at home can we aid democracy and freedom in other lands.

- (4) In 1917 we sent our American ships into the war zone, and this led us to war. In 1941 we must keep our American convoys and merchant ships on our side of the Atlantic.
- (5) Humanitarian aid is the beauty of a strong free country at peace. With proper safeguard for the distribution of supplies we should feed and cloth the people in their sufferings in occupied countries.
- (6) We advocate an official advisory vote of the people of the United States on the question of World Peace so that when congress decides this question, as the constitution provides, we will know the opinion of the people on this the greatest of all issues.

November 7, 1941 - A further announcement was made of the AMERICA FIRST rally on Armistice Day. The committee head was given as Mrs. MARY M. HENNINGER, Executive Secretary of the State headquarters. Also on the committee was Mrs. FLORENCE SLIFRIED; Mrs. HERBERT BECA; Mrs. LEO V. BORTON; KIMIE KUSMAUL; ALEXANDER RIDGEMAN; and GEORGE SLIFRIED, all of Newark, N.J. Also on this committee was Mrs. LILLIAN SMITH, of Maplewood, N.J.; Miss MARY J. HENNINGER, of Emerson, N.J.; Mrs. BENJAMIN MELISSER, of Morristown, N.J.; THOMAS GREGORY, of South Orange, N.J.; and Mrs. VALANTINE MILLER, of Union, N.J.

November 7, 1941 - There was an article stating that THOMAS MC CARTER had tendered his resignation as a member of the AMERICA FIRST.

November 12, 1941 - Attendance at the Armistice Day America First rally was given as 1,500 and one speaker stated that he thought the Neutrality Provisions could be defeated. Professor O'CONNELL of Seton Hall blamed the sinking of the destroy Robin James on the administration of President ROOSEVELT.

November 22, 1941 - Senator NYE addressed a meeting of the AMERICA FIRST at Elizabeth, N.J., and his talk followed the usual lines. The attendance was given as 600, and Mrs. MARY HENNINGER presided at the meeting.

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November 26, 1941 - Professor JAMES O'CONNELL of Seton Hall was given as a speaker at the Ukrainian Center, 186 William Street, Newark, N.J. that evening along with EDWARD ATWELL, of New York.

Nov, 27, 1941 - At the above mentioned meeting O'CONNELL stated "that Hitler is trying to conquer the world is baloney." He stated that it was impossible to understand how Catholics could support the Communists in the present war.

December 4, 1941 - A meeting of the Hudson County AMERICA FIRST was scheduled to protest the denial of certain billings at Kearny, for meetings of AMERICA FIRST. Senator NYK and Representative HARTLEY, of N.J., and SAUTERUFF, of Wisconsin were given as speakers.

December 8, 1941 - Mrs. MARY HANNINGER, of Emerson, stated that the AMERICAN FIRST COMMITTEE was one hundred per cent behind the Government in the war, and there was also an announcement that the above mentioned meeting of the Hudson County Chapter would not be held.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the state that the New Jersey organization was some what of an off-shoot of the New York. Although the N.J. organization possessed autonomy it was technically under the jurisdiction of the New York Office. She added that the N.J. headquarters for a time had been located in Montclair, N.J. (which is in accordance with certain newspaper articles set forth above).

[REDACTED]

[redacted] leaders in New Jersey, as Mrs. EDITH MURPHY, of Leonia, N.J., head of the Bergen County Chapter; Miss MARCELLA CARROLL, of Jersey City, N.J., leader of the Hudson County Chapter; Mrs. LILLIAN HARVEY, of Trenton, N.J., head of the Mercer County chapter; and a man by the name of MARCECUS, of Clifton, who was Chairman of the Passaic County group. She advised that this latter individual had secured a separate starter from the New York Office, [redacted] therefore she knew nothing concerning activities of the AMERICA FIRST in Passaic County, N.J.

She denied that THOMAS MC CARTER, President of Public Service of New Jersey, was ever active in the organization. She stated that as far as she knew he never contributed any money to the local office of AMERICA FIRST.

[redacted] State Headquarters, at 32 Commerce Street, Newark, N.J. She advised that Professor JAMES O'CONNELL of Seton Hall spoke at a number of rallies sponsored by the organization, but denied that he had worked to build up the group. She stated that a young man by the name of WILLIAM PHILLIPS of the New York headquarters had been sent to New Jersey.

[redacted] was interrogated relative to the newspaper articles about ERNEST HARRIS, President of the Newark Christian Front being a speaker at the America First rally. She vigorously denied the allegation contained in the newspaper story and termed them "crackpot, and sensational reporting." She stated that PHILLIPS gave a talk on "Current Events" at a public meeting which was attended by HARRIS.

She further stated that at the conclusion of PHILLIPS speech he asked if there were any questions from the audience, and HARRIS proceeded to ask a number of long winded questions of the oratorical variety, which led to the newspaper story in question.

[redacted] gave the following information concerning the individual mentioned in the newspaper articles set forth hereinbefore:

She stated that [redacted], who resided on [redacted] came to the office and helped with the clerical work quite a bit. On two occasions she hired a hall for a meeting place for the organization [redacted] was described as a very good citizen.

[redacted] was a volunteer worker who helped with some of the typing. She was also in charge of ticket sales for several of AMERICA FIRST rallies.

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[redacted] was also said to helped on a few occasions with ticket sales, as did [redacted] who is said to reside at [redacted]

[redacted] came into the State Headquarters and helped for an hour or two, on one and two occasions, but was not active in the organization beyond this.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] and [redacted] were employees of [redacted] who were sympathizers with the principles of AMERICA FIRST. She added that they generally took care of the obtaining of the lease permits for AMERICA FIRST meetings and served as ushers at these meetings. [redacted] also served in the latter capacity, as did [redacted]. [redacted] on several occasions made it a point to meet speakers at the airport and drive them to a hotel.

Mrs. BENJAMIN WEISSNER, of Harristown, N.J., was head of a small group of the AMERICA FIRST in that city, and according to [redacted] she had only seen her on one or two occasions when Mrs. WEISSNER attended rallies in Newark, N.J. She stated she believed that Mrs. WEISSNER was Jewish. She was not acquainted with [redacted] other than the fact that he was a speaker sent to N.J. on several occasions by the New York Office.

[redacted] implied that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in New Jersey was very locally knit. She stated that members were accepted upon the payment of \$1.00 dues and were issued a membership card. [redacted]

[redacted] She stated further that it was necessary for an individual to be an American citizen before being accepted into that group. The main purpose she stated, of the organization, was to stir up feeling against involving this country into a foreign war.

She denied that any political aspirations, as least insofar as the N.J. group was concerned, was the motive for the group. She denied receiving financial assistance from any other source than the collection of membership dues and stated that the organization was always in financial straits.

[redacted] stated further that her only interest in the organization came about as a result of her desire to see this country involved, and have to fight, in no foreign war. She believed that the same motive influenced most of the other members. She recognized that it was a distinct possibility that the

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[redacted] organization had attracted some individuals with subversive tendencies. She added that she was certain a number of Communists had been interested in the movement before Russia entered the war, because there was a short drop in membership after the beginning of the Russo-German war. She added that as far as anti-semitic charges against this organization were concerned, she was certain that the New Jersey group was not guilty of this. She went on to say that a number of her very close friends were Jewish and that the leader of the America First in Morristown, N.J. was in her opinion a Jew.

[redacted] stated that the organization was dissolved after the attack on Pearl Harbor, upon the orders of General MOORE, the National Head. [redacted] and she stated that to her knowledge no meetings were held, and no activities have been carried on since that time. The whole reason for existence of the AMERICA FIRST had passed away with the outbreak of war. It was an organization devoted to the keeping of this country out of war, but after the country entered war, there was no reason for its continuance, and it was the patriotic duty of every citizen to support the Government in the war effort.

[redacted] She added that there was no meetings planned, and it was her earnest desire that none should be held, and further she stated she had been told General MOORE had taken steps to protect the name of AMERICA first from use by any other organizations.

[redacted]

[redacted]

She advised further that headquarters had been opened at 340 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, N.J., on June 27, 1941. The organizational meeting was

held on June 30, 1941, at the Odd Fellows Hall, Jersey City, N.J. At that time, voluntary contributions were solicited from the audience to defray expenses of the organization. She estimated that from the date of the opening of headquarters until Pearl Harbor the organization acquired about 3,500 members in Hudson County. She stated that it was received very well by citizens of Jersey City, particularly most of the strength being among the Italians. The largest attendance at any one meeting was on October 15, 1941, when about 2,500 heard an address by Congressman HAMILTON FISH, and ex-senator RUSH MOLT, in Dickinson High School, Jersey City, N.J. Shortly after an Armistice Day meeting was held in school #11, Jersey City, N.J., addressed by Congressman JEANETTE ECKLIN, and GEORGE SMITH, who she described as Lindbergh's Body Guard, about seven hundred being in attendance.

In September, 1941, DOUGLAS GREGORY and KATHERINE LARKIN, of the New York America, first addressed a meeting in Jersey City, in which about two hundred were present. [REDACTED] stated that she had become interested in the organization because she had always been a Pacifist at heart and did not believe that war successfully settled any issue. She denied that the organization had any political aspirations and said that it was her firm belief that it should not be a political power. To her knowledge most of the former membership of the AMERICA FIRST had been namely either taken into the Army, or were presently supporting the country's war effort in some other way.

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She pointed out that RAY HANFIELD, former title head of the Hudson County Chapter, had volunteered as soon as the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, and is presently at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She denied knowledge of any underground meetings of the organization, or any continuance of its functions. She stated in the event she learned of this she would communicate with this office. [REDACTED] advised that after the attack on Pearl Harbor the group decided to disband but that it still had some money in the treasury. On December 15, 1941, group had a social evening in Jersey City, N.J. to spend this left-over money, incident might have given some persons the impression that AMERICA FIRST was a meeting.

She further stated that at that time it had been necessary to be the headquarters open for a few days after Pearl Harbor in order to make refund

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for tickets sold for a proposed AMERICA FIRST meeting to be held on December 10, 1941, in Jersey City, N.J. The headquarters finally allowed on December 18th, 1941.

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[REDACTED]

She denied knowledge of any meetings of the organization subsequent to the attack on Pearl Harbor, and advised that she was now doing all in her power to aid the war effort, and felt that it was a patriotic duty of every citizen to support the administration to the utmost. She did not believe the organization would be a political feature or would ever appear again. Its only reason for existence, she stated, was the necessity that some people felt for keeping this country out of a foreign war, but when the country became involved in such a war, the organization's necessity was deferred.

[REDACTED] furnished information along similar lines and denied having heard of any meetings of the organization in and around Maplewood, N.J., or Irvington, N.J. She advised that she had assisted at the State Headquarters of AMERICA FIRST in certain clerical work because she believed in the principles of the group that the country should make every attempt to avoid foreign entanglements. She has a young son, in his early teens, and she stated that she fears that he may be sent to be killed on foreign soil.

This Field Division received a letter from the New York Office, dated April 1, 1942, which stated that on March 26th, 1942, an unknown individual who stated that he was a soldier in the U.S. Army telephonically communicated with the New York Office and advised that it had come to his attention that [REDACTED] who resides at the Y.M.C.A., Hoboken, N.J., had certain information concerning the present activities of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. It was ascertained that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE was allegedly working in a dual capacity in the one section supposedly going underground, whereas the other part is organizing what is designated as the George Washington Brigade. It was suggested that [REDACTED] be contacted to explore the allegations of the complaint.

Accordingly, [REDACTED] was contacted by the writer at the Hoboken Y.M.C.A. but he denied actively of any knowledge of meetings of the organization, and advised that he had no knowledge whatever of continued activities of that group. However it was apparent from conversing with [REDACTED] that he was a radical individual wholeheartedly devoted to the principles of AMERICA FIRST, who would welcome the birth of that organization, where it to reopen at the present time, or after the

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In fact, [redacted] made the statement to the writer that he believed AMERICA FIRST would return after the present war under another name, to prevent the United States from becoming "an International Sucker as it had been after the last war." He added that the Brave European Nations would get money out of this country, finance their armies and navies, and further revenge wars. He added that we would again be called upon to finance the Armies and Governments of various "buffer" states in Europe, who would sell us out in the future as they had done in this war.

[redacted] launched into a particularly violent denunciation of President Roosevelt. He added that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was brought on by the "bullying of Roosevelt and Hull." [redacted] stated that he recognized the necessity for supporting President Roosevelt at this time, but indicated that he would support a movement to impeach Roosevelt after the war. He added that in July, 1941, at a Committee meeting of AMERICA FIRST, in New York City, the question of impeaching Roosevelt had been discussed at length. However, they decided at that time not to attempt an impeachment in spite of the fact that Roosevelt had violated the constitution of the United States on this occasion. [redacted] deplored the treatment which has been accorded the Vichy-France by the administration. He referred to one note to VICHY-France written by SUMNER WELLES which he stated was full of "historical inaccuracies." [redacted] stated he did not trust Russia, and he believed that there was still a great deal of resentment in this country toward the war. He stated that he personally knew that the only reason the men of Hoboken were supporting the war was the forty hour week and the high wages being paid by industry. He believed that they were only supporting Roosevelt because of a belief in this country's cause. [redacted] also appeared very anti-British in his remarks.

He stated that during the time he was working in the AMERICA FIRST movement that there was as much anti-British feeling as there was anti-German. He went on to say that it has been his experience that AMERICA FIRST met with a wonderful reception all over Hudson County. According to him the reception from the Italian element in Jersey City was particularly warm. [redacted] claimed that [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that [redacted] possessed most of the information concerning the activities of the AMERICA FIRST in Hudson County, and she would know if the organization was still functioning. He added that it was his understanding that it had completely dissolved. He made the statement that it

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b7D was his opinion that the organization had broken up too quickly. He seemed sincere enough but gave the impression of being somewhat of a "crackpot," and it is believed, after conversing with [REDACTED], that he would readily associate himself with the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE should it be reconstructed.

- P E N D I N G -

100-5696

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION:

AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY:

Will continue the investigation of the subject organization in New Jersey.

Will contact the leaders of organizations in New Jersey in the event that prior investigation discloses that they are reliable and trustworthy.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☒ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

□ (i)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

□ (k)(1)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

□ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

2. The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-4712-405 in p. 17

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
607 U.S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, New York

100-9887

June 3, 1942

b7c

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BJT/col

Dear Sir:

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Reference is made to Bureau letter directed to the New York Field Office, Bureau File No. 100-4712, dated May 14, 1942 and captioned as above and also to the copies of the memorandum dated May 1, 1942 received by the Bureau from the Special Defense Unit of the Department of Justice and transmitted therewith.

This is to advise that the material which [redacted] had in his possession in connection with [redacted]

[redacted] is only a small portion of the miscellaneous material and reports concerning the America First Committee in the possession of [redacted]

In view of these facts and following contact with [redacted], it has been determined that the only possible means of securing the material desired by the department is by a complete examination and review of all the material concerning the America First Committee in the possession of [redacted]. However, [redacted] has pointed out to this office that such a task will take considerable time, possibly several weeks.

In view of the Bureau's instructions in this matter a review of the file [redacted] will be undertaken for the abstracting of the desired material unless, because of the conditions involved, the Bureau feels that such is not advisable and advises this office to that effect.

RECORDED & INDEXED
Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth
Assistant Director

100-4712-41
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 5 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPY

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b7c

100-4712-406

June 25, 1942

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RECORDED

JUN 10 1942

SP8BINTC66

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

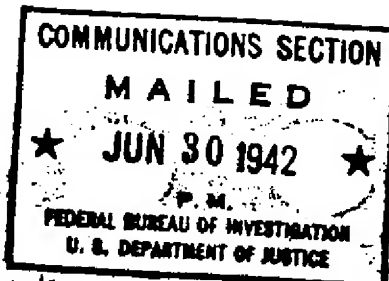
Reference is made to your letter dated June 3, 1942, in the above-captioned matter, advising of the plans to assign an Agent to a review of the complete records of [REDACTED] as related to the America First Committee. b7D

Pending specific instructions from the Bureau, this project is to be held in abeyance.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



JUN 29 1942
JUN 29 1942
JUN 29 1942

JUL 1 1942

Evans

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-1067**

REPORT MADE AT EL PASO, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 6-4-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-3-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE 0 AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] contacted at Albuquerque, N. M. and were unable to furnish any information re present status of AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, or activities of Mrs. AMY P. HURT, former Regional Director. [REDACTED] unable to furnish information re this Committee, or A. H. WILLIAMS, former Director. [REDACTED] did not believe this Committee active in any way at the present time. [REDACTED]

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to all Field Divisions dated 3-16-42.

DETAILS:

[REDACTED] all located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, were contacted with regard to the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, and Mrs. AMY P. HURT, former Regional Director, but they were unable to furnish any information which might be of present positive value to this investigation. They were unable to provide any information which might indicate activity of any sort of this committee or Mrs. HURT in the vicinity of Albuquerque, New Mexico, or in the State of New Mexico.

[REDACTED] Albuquerque, New Mexico, advised that she knew Mrs. HURT was associated with the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE but she did not believe her presently active in this connection. She stated that

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED 9/20/94 #16	100-4712-407	RECORDED
	JUN 6 1942	INDEXED
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100-1067

she believed Mrs. HURT's attachment to this Committee to be a righteous one, springing from her pacifistic ideals. [REDACTED] advised that it was her understanding that Mrs. HURT had one son in the Service of the United States Army; that because of this, and the circumstances bringing about the entry of the United States into the War, she believed that Mrs. HURT, as herself, could be satisfied only with a just peace. It is to be noted that [REDACTED] b7c b7D

[REDACTED] were unable to furnish any information with regard to the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE or any activity of A. H. WILLIAMS, Encino, New Mexico, in connection with this Committee. b7c

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-2827**

REPORT MADE AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6-2-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-26-27-42	REPORT MADE BY b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Local chapter of America First Committee at Richmond, Virginia, organized September, 1941, and disbanded in December of same year after declaration of war by this country. Investigation fails to disclose any subsequent activities of group in Richmond and former officials state all records sent to National Headquarters in Chicago after group disbanded. Only other known chapter in Virginia was located in Roanoke, Virginia.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to all offices dated March 16, 1942. Bureau teletypes dated May 11 and May 26, 1942.

DETAILS:

AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

A review of the files in the Richmond Field Office in this case reflects that under date of October 24, 1941, there was received the following information from [REDACTED] This source stated that a meeting of the Richmond, Virginia, branch of the America First Committee was held on the night of Friday, October 3, 1941, in the Y.W.C.A. building at Richmond, Virginia, and an executive committee was appointed as follows:

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED

2/503

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#16

J. STANLEY COLLINS, President
 Mrs. ROBERT MAITT, Jr., Co-Chairman
 Miss ELISE SWEENEY, Secretary

Members

23 persons were reported to have attended this meeting which was presided over by Mr. COLLINS.

The Richmond Field Office file in this case contains a newspaper clipping from the Richmond Times-Dispatch under date of December 10, 1941, and this clipping contains a photograph of J. STANLEY COLLINS and Miss ELISE SWEENEY listed as Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Richmond Chapter of the America First Committee. The caption under the photograph states that Mr. COLLINS was addressing the membership at a meeting held on the previous night at the Hotel John Marshall.

At the reference room of the Richmond Times-Dispatch the writer reviewed issues of that paper for the month of December, 1941, and an article appeared in the issue dated December 11, 1941, relative to the local chapter of the America First Committee. The article stated that the local chapter of the organization voted on the previous night to disband indefinitely in view of the Japanese attack on the previous weekend and the entry of this country into the war. The meeting was held at the Hotel Jefferson in Richmond and members were read a telegram from the National Headquarters of the organization advising the local chapter to disband. The article further states that a telegram was sent by the local chapter to the National Headquarters stating that they concurred to the views of the National Organization and would disband. Mr. J. STANLEY COLLINS, described as chairman of the group, is quoted as saying "America has been attacked. It is the duty of every American now to win war."

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In connection with the above individual, [REDACTED] advised that on September 13, 1940, the Richmond Office of his agency received some pamphlets addressed to [REDACTED] publications, Royal Oak, Michigan, which pamphlets were trans-shipped from Chicago. No further information could be furnished regarding this particular shipment.

b7C
b7D

[REDACTED] who has been a resident of Richmond for over twenty years and particularly alert to note any activities of a Nazi or Fascist nature, stated that he has not heard of the local chapter of the America First Committee being active since it disbanded in 1941. He was of the opinion that the structure of this organization is not being used by any groups or individuals at the present time or it would have come to his attention through various acquaintances of his in Richmond.

[REDACTED] was interviewed at [REDACTED]. He advised that no information had come to his attention which would indicate that the local America First group is again becoming active. He advised that he has heard nothing of their activities subsequent to a meeting held in December, 1941, shortly after war was declared at the time the group announced publicly that it was disbanding.

[REDACTED] Miss SWEENEY resides at [REDACTED]. It is noted that Miss SWEENEY was the Secretary of the local chapter of subject organization.

[REDACTED] that she is unemployed and that he believes she drives a car in connection with local civilian defense work. He stated that he will advise this office in the event [REDACTED] in the future which appears to be of a subversive nature.

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED] He advised that the organization was rather informal and only consisted of a small group of individuals. He stated that the group disbanded upon the suggestion of the National organization, in Chicago, after this country entered the war inasmuch as there was nothing further that the organization could do. He advised that all membership records and other records of the local chapter were forwarded to the Headquarters in Chicago. No funds were available for sending inasmuch the local chapter disbanded with a deficit.

b2
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[REDACTED] advised that since the group disbanded no efforts have been made by any individuals or other groups to take over the structure of the local organization or to influence by literature or otherwise, individuals who were members of the local group. He suggested that [REDACTED] be contacted to ascertain whether or not any efforts had been made to place the

b7D
members of the local group on the mailing list of any other organization with a view to influencing their opinions regarding position of this country in the present war. [REDACTED] in closing advised that he still holds this country above all else and most certainly would report to the F.B.I. any efforts by foreign or subversive groups to use the organization set up by the America First Committee to the advantage of such foreign interest.

[REDACTED] was interviewed at her home at [REDACTED]

She stated that it was the first organization she had ever joined in her life and did not even join any groups or clubs while going to school. She stated that she was sincerely interested in keeping this country out of war and, therefore, joined up with other individuals who held similar views. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She stated that no effort whatever has been made to re-activate the organization set up by the America First Committee in Richmond and further that no effort had been made among the former members to maintain contact with each other. [REDACTED] was asked if she had received any literature or if any efforts had been made by other organizations to influence her way of thinking concerning the present war. She stated that the only literature received was a mimeographed letter addressed to her in March of this year on the letterhead of the Post War World Council, of 112 East 19th Street of New York City. She furnished agent with that portion of the letterhead containing the names of the members of the National Committee of the Post War World Council and it was noted that these names included the names of several active in the American Civil Liberties Union, such as JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, NORMAN THOMAS, and OSWALD GARRISON VALLIER. [REDACTED] advised that she is not certain that this letter came to her by reason of her activities with the America First Committee because she recalled that as an individual she had written for some literature of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and it is possible that she received the Post War World Council literature as the result of that inquiry. In conclusion [REDACTED] stated that although she is very much opposed to the present administration in Washington she is entirely loyal to this country which is her native country and, therefore, if any foreign individuals or groups attempt to make use of the structure set up by the America First Committee she will report the activities of such individuals. She stated that the only other chapter in Virginia to her knowledge of subject organization was located at Roanoke, Virginia, but she did not know the identity of any individuals connected with it.

The letterhead of the Post War World Council is being retained in the Richmond File of this case for future reference.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE RICHMOND FIELD DIVISION

AT ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Will conduct appropriate investigation along the lines of Bureau letter to all offices dated March 16, 1942.

In brief this letter requests that investigation be conducted to determine if subject organization is being kept alive by individuals or groups who may plan in some future time using the organization in a manner detrimental to the internal security of the country and further whether the structure set up by subject organization is now being used by foreign interests in such a manner as to interfere with the national defense effort.

- PENDING -

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Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

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□ (k)(7)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. 100-2651

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.	DATE WHEN MADE 6-6-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-29, 6-2-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE disbanded as an active, open organization upon entrance of the United States into war. Main office at Philadelphia closed on 1-15-42, and files removed to home of Mrs. IRENE THORN MURPHY, Executive Secretary, Phila. Branch. No evidence of **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**, Philadelphia, members being active in organizations of similar nature.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Letter from Bureau to Philadelphia dated 3-16-42. Teletype from Bureau to Philadelphia dated 5-11-42. Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** dated 5-27-42, at Los Angeles. Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** dated 5-13-42, at New York City.

DETAILS:

[REDACTED] advised that, upon the entrance of the United States into the war, the **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE** has disbanded, and that, according to the information that he has received, there has been no evidence of its being openly active.

During the time that the **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE** was an active organization in Philadelphia, their main office was maintained at 36 South 17th Street, Philadelphia. According to information received from **[REDACTED]** the main office was closed on January 15, 1942, along with the auxiliary offices, which were located at 1917 Passyunk Avenue, 5530 Chester Avenue, and Frankford Avenue and Hawor Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. **[REDACTED]** advised that the files, which contained all of the records and lists of membership of the **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE** were moved from the main office

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. F. [REDACTED] 380	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-409	RECORDED INDEXED
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on South 17th Street, Philadelphia, on January 15, 1942, to the home of Mrs. IRENE THORN MURPHY, [REDACTED]

b7c It was set out in reference report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 5-13-42 at New York City, that there was apparently no united effort being made by extremist elements of the dissolved AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, New York City, since its dissolution. However, new organizations, created and supported by such element include "Americans for Peace", "Gifts For Our Boys", "Women United", "Salute Our Men, Incorporated", "Post War Council". [REDACTED] b2 b7D advised that in connection with the above-mentioned organizations, he possessed information that the "Americans for Peace" Headquarters is presently located at 1165 Broadway, New York City, the director being HORACE J. HAASE, and he advised that HAASE has made many direct appeals to former members of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE to become members of the organization, "Americans for Peace".

Concerning the organization named "Women United", [REDACTED] stated that, according to his information, the "Women United" is not an organization which has come into existence since the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE has been disbanded. He stated that this organization was in existence some time previous to the United States having entered the present war. He further advised that the first record that he had of the "Women United" was when a mass meeting was held at Carnegie Hall, New York City, on April 14, 1941, and he stated that the offices of that organization as of April 14, 1941, were: President, Mrs. HALL HERRICK, of Boston, Massachusetts; Mrs. GERALDINE BUCHANAN PARKER, who was Executive Secretary, and who was formerly connected with the "No Foreign War Committee".

[REDACTED] further advised that subsequent actions on the part of "Women United" and "No Foreign War Committee" indicated that the organization, "Women United", was unofficially the Women's Auxiliary of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. It is further reported by [REDACTED] that this organization is located with headquarters at 545 5th Avenue, New York City, but that they, at the present time, do not have sufficient finances, and that the office is operating on a part-time basis, with only a skeleton staff.

Concerning the organization "Gifts For Our Boys", [REDACTED] stated that this organization was in the process of being organized early in the month of January, 1942, and that the headquarters at that time was in New York City, at 150 Broadway, and that a Mr. and Mrs. NORMAN HOLMES were in charge of the organization of this committee. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. and Mrs. NORMAN HOLMES formerly were in charge of the Wall Street office of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

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b7D
PHILADELPHIA FILE #100-2651

Concerning the organization "Salute Our Men", [redacted] stated that this organization was an off-shoot from the organization known as "Gifts For Our Boys", and that the organization was formed by small groups which broke away from the organization, "Gifts For Our Boys", who had become dissatisfied and wanted to form an organization of their own. It is not known, however, that the organization known as "Gifts For Our Boys" is presently active in Philadelphia. [redacted] stated that it is remotely possible that the Philadelphia connection of the organization known as "Gifts For Our Boys", lies in the fact that at the various recent meetings, following Pearl Harbor, members of the "Mothers of Pennsylvania" and the "Crusading Mothers of Pennsylvania" spoke of projects for sending "Gifts For Our Boys". The expression, however, was not used as referring to any organization, and the subsequent meetings of the "Mothers of Pennsylvania" did not indicate whether the project was carried through.

Concerning the organization mentioned in Special Agent [redacted] report, the "Post War World Council", [redacted] stated that the offices of this organization are maintained at 119 E. 19th Street, New York City, and that it is an organization which was created from the joint efforts of the organization known as "Keep America Out of War Congress" and the "Provisional Committee for a Democratic Peace". [redacted] stated that the "Post War World Council" has also some connection with the "War Resister's League", which is an old time pacifist organization. [redacted] stated that the connection between these organizations is established by the fact that the "War Resister's League" distributed literature of the "Post War World Council" organization in the form of a pamphlet entitled "The Peace We Lost". It was further stated by [redacted] that the only connection between these groups and the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE is the fact that at a meeting of the "War Resister's League" in New York City a few weeks ago, a small group of minor figures in the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE appeared and tried to gain some measure of influence, but were unsuccessful. [redacted] stated that it is understood that the leaders of the organization known as the "War Resister's League" are: OSWALD GARRISON WILLARD, former editor of a publication known as "The Nation;" NORMAN THOMAS, former head of the Socialist Party in the United States, and DOROTHY DETZER, a professional peace advocate. [redacted] advised that he will endeavor to ascertain the present addresses of the above named persons, who are leaders of the "War Resister's League".

- P E N D I N G -

PHILADELPHIA FILE #100-2651

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION
AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

b7c

- * Will determine whether [REDACTED] is attempting to reorganize the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE group. Will determine whether he is making a speaking tour and obtain his itinerary if possible.

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Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] and ascertain any information he obtains concerning the present activities of the former officials and members of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, and will ascertain if the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE is being kept alive and active by individuals or organizations which may plan at some time in the future to use the organization in such a manner which will be detrimental to the United States.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated At CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

File No. 100-316

Report Made At : Date When Made: Period For : Report Made By

BUFFALO, NEW YORK: 6-2-42 : 5-6, 17-41; 12-9-41; 2-; : 13-42; 3-16-42; 5-11, : : 13, 19, 26-42; 6-1, 2-42;

TITLE

CHARACTER OF CASE

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Information concerning the general background of the America First Committee in Buffalo set out. Report of America First rally held at the Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, New York on Saturday night, May 3, 1941 set out. Information in the Buffalo Office indicates MILLARD C. TORNTGE is local leader of the America First Committee. Other members and those associated in America First activities named.

P

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 5-13-42
New York City
Bureau teletype dated 5-11-42

DETAILS:

On January 23, 1941 the Buffalo Field Division was advised that literature was being sent out to Buffalo citizens by the America First Committee which was located at 122 W. Chippewa Street, Buffalo, New York. This unknown source advised "This literature is to our mind absolutely seditious". Subsequent to the receipt of the above mentioned anonymous communication three publications were obtained by the Buffalo Field Division.

1. Four Assumptions About War by STUART CHASE

The above pamphlet was distributed from the Buffalo Chapter of the America First Committee, located at 160 Pearl Street, Buffalo, New York and was received from the National Headquarters of the America First Committee where General ROBERT E. HOOD was acting

Approved and

Forwarded:

Special Agent :

in Charge :

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2 New York
3 Buffalo

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national chairman with offices located at 141 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. These four assumptions are directed to the people of the United States and are stated as follows:

1. That the United States enjoys a relatively stable culture.
 2. That communities in the Old World do not.
 3. That the United States cannot remodel and stabilize the Old World by armed force.
 4. That a serious attempt to do so will destroy the American pattern.
2. "To Enter the Wars Now Raging in Europe, Asia and Africa would be an Act of National Folly from which our Country must be spared"

The above statement is the title of the second pamphlet obtained from the Buffalo Chapter of the America First Committee at 160 Pearl Street and published by the America First Committee, 1806 Board of Trade Building, Chicago, Ill., without date.

3. America First application blank which states as follows:

"I firmly believe that 'The path to war is a false path to freedom' and that it is my duty to help keep America out of foreign wars. Therefore, I contributing to support the work of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE." Below this is listed a place for the signature, the address, date, telephone number and amount enclosed and a statement offering voluntary services to different divisions of the America First Committee.

On May 4, 1941 the America First Committee of Buffalo held a rally in the Kleinhans Music Hall at which time Senator BURTON K. WHEELER, Montana democrat, was the speaker of the evening. In his speech Senator WHEELER appealed to the audience to repudiate the nations "war-mongers" to stop the rush toward armed conflict and further stated, "We are rushing down the road to war and to dictatorship. One begets the other." At the time of this rally Mr. WHEELER'S picture appeared in the Buffalo COURIER EXPRESS, dated May 4, 1941 with Mr. JOSEPH M. BOEHM who was at that time a member of the Buffalo Chapter of America First Committee which sponsored the above mentioned rally.

Clippings on the report of WHEELER'S speech which were taken from the Buffalo COURIER EXPRESS of May 4, 1941 reflect that WHEELER complimented JOHN E. BUTLER, Republican winner of the recent special election in the 42nd Congressional District on the grounds that he had campaigned on a platform to keep this country out of war and to keep American boys home and away from the battlefields of Europe, Asia and Africa. This newspaper report further reflect that WHEELER attack various leaders of American political, social and industrial life because they were "war-mongers".

The Buffalo EVENING NEWS for May 5, 1941 reflects that the rally mentioned above in the COURIER EXPRESS was held at Buffalo at which Senator WHEELER of Montana spoke. Over 5,000 were conservatively estimated to have attended this rally by the America First Committee. A spot check made by [REDACTED] b7.

[REDACTED] reflects that the following cars acted as an escort for Senator WHEELER on his visit to Buffalo, and drove with Senator WHEELER to the Kleinhans Music Hall where the above mentioned rally was held on Saturday, May 3, 1941:

[REDACTED] b7c

The files of the Buffalo Field Division further reflect that [REDACTED] of the Buffalo Field Division, attended the rally held by the America First Committee on May 3, 1941 at Kleinhans Music Hall. Mr. [REDACTED] report reflects that a crowd conservatively estimated at 5,000 people assembled in the hall to hear the address of Senator BURTON K. WHEELER. This report reflects that the crowd was quiet and orderly and that representation of various nationalities was in proportion to their population in this area, and that the audience contained persons from every walk of life. This report further reflects that considerable enthusiasm was evidenced and the strong feeling among the listeners was apparently somewhat checked by Senator WHEELER'S failure to make any strong emotional appeal.

According to the report Senator WHEELER made reference to the F.B.I. near the beginning of his speech when he expressed the opinion that many United States citizens hesitate to express their anti-war attitude because they are afraid of the F.B.I., the Internal Revenue Department, etc. The second reference to the Bureau was not derogatory, according to this report, being simply a recollection mentioned in connection with war hysteria during the World War, when the speaker was a United States Attorney and stated he sent a F.B.I. agent to check on a complaint that German airplanes were sighted flying over the mountains in western United States. The report made by [REDACTED] reflects that among those on the platform with Senator WHEELER and Chairman HILLARD C. BORTGE were Rev. PAUL A. RASCHKE, pastor of Calvary Evangelical Church, Rev. FRANCIS W. MC KENNA, assistant pastor of Holy Family Church, former Assemblyman HOWARD C. DICKET, Chairman JOSEPH M. BOEHM of the Buffalo Planning Board, Dr. PAUL R. CONROY, professor of history at Canisius College, former Police Commissioner AUSTIN J. ROCHE, EDWARD F. BARRETT, assistant professor of history at Canisius College, Mrs. FRETTON R. SMITH, JR., who was an active peace advocate, WEL M. HILLARD, president of the Rotary Club of Buffalo, JOSEPH E. STOFFEL, president of the Economics League, and GILBERT J. PEDERSEN of the America First Committee.

At the above mentioned rally held by the America First Committee the German Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum band played.

The files of the Buffalo Field Division reflect that very little activity was carried on after the above mentioned rally until December 9, 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor at which time the local America First group held a rally at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo which was attended by more than 350 members of the local chapter. At this rally the America First Committee passed a resolution backing the United States Government in its efforts to wipe out the Japanese offensive and pledged loyalty and support in the face of the "wanton" attack by the Japs. MILLARD C. DORNTGE head of the local committee of the America First Committee closed the meeting by reading the resolution pledging every aid of the America First Committee in the war effort. The resolution unanimously passed at this meeting is as follows:

"Whereas the America First Committee stands for an impregnable defense of America, and whereas the United States of America has been wantonly attacked by the naval and land forces of the imperial government of Japan, therefore be it resolved that the Buffalo chapter of the America First Committee urges that our government use its forces without stint or limit to bring this war upon America to a triumphant and victorious conclusion.

"To this end, we hereby solemnly pledge our loyalty, our strength, our determination, and support."

b7c A report of the New York Field Division dated 5-13-42 made by Special Agent [redacted] reflects that information in the possession of the New York Field Division reflects that Mr. MILLARD DORNTGE of the America First Committee in Buffalo, New York, forwarded a letter to HORACE J. HALSE, stating that the Buffalo America First Committee was in 100 per cent agreement with the national organization of Americans For Peace and [redacted] indicated a possible effort toward formation of a chapter of the organization in Buffalo.

b7c On May 19, 1942 a letter was received from the Bureau, advising that a submission slip from the national censorship reflected that a letter dated December 9, 1941 from [redacted] was posted to [redacted] This letter contained the following quotation:

"Not only the fact that we are at war but the disgusting exhibition that our NAVY put on in HAWAII. Roosevelt is to speak tonight and I will indeed be interested to have his report. We have reports that GERMAN authorities announce that 'WAR LOVING ROOSEVELT has at last got his way' and I can't help but agree. I guess, though, that I'll lose my AMERICA FIRST MEMBERSHIP card down the drain and 'come what may.'"

P E N D I N G

100-315

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

BUFFALO FIELD DIVISION

AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Will further investigate the background and general activities of the America First Committee in Buffalo with a view to obtaining information concerning all of the activities to date plus the present status of the America First Committee and its present intentions and purposes from a local point of view.

P E N D I N G

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois
June 4, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

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RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois, dated May 29, 1942, in the above-entitled case. b7c

There are being transmitted herewith two photostatic copies of
the following documents obtained from [REDACTED] b7c b7D

The originals of these documents are being returned to [REDACTED]
at his request. RECORDS & INDEXED 100-4712-411

There is also being transmitted herewith one photostatic copy of
a list [REDACTED] b7c b7D

These were obtained from [REDACTED]
who made an examination of the America First records at [REDACTED] b7D




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Director, 6/4/42


RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

 For the information of the Bureau, the Dies Committee at Washington, D. C. is also in possession of copies of the above-described documents. One copy of each of the above is being retained in the files of the Chicago Field Division. b7D

Very truly yours,

A. H. JOHNSON

A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge


100-668
Enc. b7c

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Dear Attorney General Bick:

Please stop
the success to
America First from
meeting now or
any other time.
Let's crush the
filthy oppressors
and Hitlerites before
it's too late. You
Let's keep America
Free Sincerely

[REDACTED]

No Galt
Admission
Jury

b7c

America First Committee

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
JUL 11 1942
RECEIVED

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

100-4712-412
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 JUL 12 1942

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1942
[SP8BTS]CL

Attorney General Biddle
Washington D. C.
Dear Sir:

In keeping with National
Loyalty I think you should
present the greeting of the re-
organized America First Comm.
on Fri. June 11 1942

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

0 America First Committee

No att 9c incomplete
a 1 dec 1942

b7c

RECORDED

INDEXED

100-4712-413
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 JUN 12 1942

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUST.

June 10, 1942

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

JUN 13 1942

U. S. DEPT. OF JUST.

Attorney General Francis Biddle
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

As a Catholic trade unionist, as well as a loyal American, I wish to protest against a scheduled meeting of "Americans For Peace", an organization which is openly treasonous. There seems to be a systematic campaign to organize confused elements among the Catholic population of New York in support of this movement. Catholic workers in Brooklyn are incensed at the assumption that we are supporters of people like Fathers Coughlin and Curran.

This meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12, at Prospect Park Y.M.C.A., Brooklyn, and we demand that something be done about it.

Yours very truly,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BJS/cab

RECORDED & INDEXED

100-4772-41
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 JUN 15 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 100-4712-414

June 24, 1942

[REDACTED]
New York, New York

RECEIVED
DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BJS/

Col

Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that your letter dated June 10, 1942, directed to the Attorney General, has been referred to this Bureau.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy and interest in making this information available to the Federal Government, and I want to assure you that it has been made a matter of official record in the files of this Bureau and has received appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Gurn _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 12

☆ JUN 24 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 25 1942

FED. BU. OF

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

June 10, 1942

Brooklyn, New York

67c

10-19-90 SP8875/col

Attorney General Francis Biddle
Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF
RECEIVED

JUN 13 1942

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Mr. Biddle:

I have just heard about a meeting called by Homer J. Haase at one Prospect Park "Y" in my borough, Brooklyn, N.Y.

As your records probably indicate, Mr. Haase was formerly connected with the "America First" committee, and has not given up any of his "negotiated peace" ideas.

As a matter of fact, he is attempting to build a new organization of Hitler-lovers, under a new name which hasn't the stench of "America First".

Mr. Haase is talking treason. He is openly siding with Hitler.

It seems to me that in this crisis facing our nation we cannot afford to permit such meetings, which call for a Hitler victory. Mr. Haase should be dealt with as a traitor of American democracy.

I belong to a union whose 16,000 members are producing and producing more for Victory. We cannot stand by and see the fruits of our labor being sabotaged by Mr. Haase. We look to you for immediate action.

RECORDED & INDEXED

100-4712-4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 15 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Sincerely,

JUN 20 1942

67c

RECORDED

100-4712-445 414X June 24, 1942

Brooklyn, New York

Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that your letter dated June 10, 1942, addressed to the Attorney General, has been referred to this Bureau.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy and interest in making this information available to the Federal Government and I want to assure you that this has been made a matter of official record in the files of this Bureau and has received appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

10-19.90 SP8 BT/60

U.S. DE. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED JUN 24 1942

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

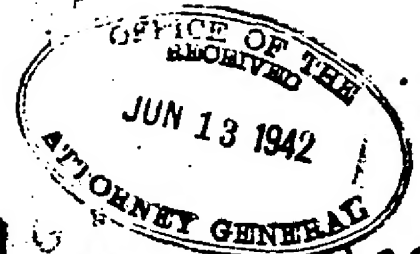
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11

☆ JUN 24 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

25 JUN 30 1942

23430



June 10, 1942

Rockville Park, New Jersey

Attorney General Francis Biddle
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Biddle:

I have learned that a Mr. ~~X~~Maase, former official of "America First", is actively organizing the remnants of that group into a new pro-Axis, anti-American group called "Americans For Peace", with head-quarters at 1165 Broadway, New York City. This outfit is calling a "Negotiated Peace" rally this Friday, June 12, at a Brooklyn Y.M.C.A.

These "Hitler helpers" must be suppressed. Our nation cannot allow these enemies of ours to sell us out to the Axis. I urge you to use your great powers as Attorney General to ban this meeting and seek the indictment of Maase, Coughlin, and all their ilk for sedition. The die is cast, the battle is on. We must put all fifth columnists out of the way efficiently and quickly. They must be jailed at once.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-19-07 BY SP8 BJS/CL

Yours very truly,

100-47712
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 15 1942
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

23429

RECORDED 100-4712-415

June 24, 1942

[REDACTED]
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that your letter dated June 10, 1942, addressed to the Attorney General, has been referred to this Bureau.

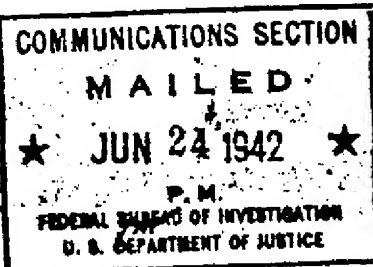
I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy and interest in making this information available to the Federal Government and I want to assure you that it has been made a matter of official record in the files of this Bureau and has received appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BIX/CCL

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____



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JUN 24 1942
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375
JUN 24 1942

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DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8835/ccl

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100-4712-416

NOT USED

100-4712

UN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

June 13, 1942

Transmit the following message to:

SPECIAL AGENTS IN CHARGE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
MIAMI, FLORIDA
BUTTE, MONTANA
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BVI/CL

0 AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, INTERNAL SECURITY (C). REBEL
MAY TWENTY-SIX LAST. ADVISE ONE, WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN
TAKEN, TWO, WHEN A REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED.

HOOVER

53518

RECORDED

RECORDED

100-4712-417	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
3	JUN 16 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

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22 JUN 23 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 15 1942

TELETYPE

1:11 P M

Per

67c

100-5606
RECEIVED
JUN 15 1942
GATE 10-90 BY SP-10

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b7c

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED
JUN 15 1942
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

It is believed that the Bureau will be interested in the following conversation which took place on [redacted] between [redacted] and [redacted]

b7c
b7D

In order to set out the conversation with versatility, [redacted] is being designated "A" and [redacted] "B". Photographs have been obtained of the "Yellow" and "Blue" publications referred to in the conversation. The conversation is as follows:

- Q. I want to see you about the letter you wrote me some three weeks ago.
- A. Yes, I am glad you dropped in and I would like to hear some more about it.
- Q. How did you hear of me?
- A. Through a friend.
- Q. I have here a news letter in two parts. The blue part specifically will explain our stand in the matter of peace vs. war and, or -- by the way, when do you want to see peace brought about?
- A. Immediately.
- Q. That's it. You are the type of person we are interested in -- a person who wants peace without victory. Why do you want peace right away?
- A. Because I lived in Europe during the last war and the horror of it impressed me so strongly that I can't go past of it.
- Q. Excellent. The trouble is with most people in this country -- never having experienced war first hand, they do not know the horror of it.

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9 JUN 22 1942

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RECORDED
INDEXED

100-4712-418
JUN 18 1942
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

b7c

Letter to Director

100-906

53516

June 15, 1942

b7c

B. Could you tell me what the newspapers think of this organization?

A. Most of the large newspapers have condemned us. "Life" magazine recently published a mis-statement about us and I am now dickering with them to retract it. There are a number of small newspapers that are definitely our friends, notably: "The Dirt Farmer" published in California; "Farmers' Exchange" New Paris, Indiana; "Community" Arvada, Colorado; "Forum" Stockton, California; "The Green" San Diego, California. "The Green" specifically has been condemned for Jew baiting.

B. For Jew baiting?

A. (Smiling broadly) You ought to know that.

B. Well I know first hand the disgusting behavior of the Jews both in Russia and Germany and I feel very strongly on the subject.

A. (With an amused smile) That, of course, is your privilege and I'll let you guess at my own opinion in the matter.

B. Do you have many members in New Jersey?

A. We are well fixed in St. Louis, on the West Coast, and in New York. New Jersey, however, is rather quiet. We are now negotiating with a Mr. Palmer of Paterson who has a group that now belongs to a somewhat different organization but is interested in joining ours.

(He then, upon question, announced that a Mrs. Amelia DuBois, who lives in a large hotel on the corner of Watchung and Grove in Montclair and who is in her 70's, is a militant member of the organization.)

Furthermore, a great many people who delay in joining our organizations are afraid to, because they have defense jobs or relatives in the armed forces. Our organization is a good one to belong to because we are not radical in our treatment of the subject. Coughlan has been too radical and is now out of business. We intend to keep out of jail because nobody can accuse us of such activities. All they can do is to condemn us in generality but cannot specifically lay their thumb on any one thing that we might say or print.

B. Well, haven't you been accused of being Hitler's willing or unwilling tools?

(Here, A. smiled again in a very superior manner and extracted from his brief case another sheet of yellow paper which he handed to B., pointing out a certain paragraph which was a rather clever piece of sophistry.)

A. This is our answer to such a remark.

(The paragraph read approximately as follows or at least conveyed the meaning idea)

"The fact that peace loving Americans want peace is purely coincidental with the fact that Hitler does not want them to fight. Would you forego something that you want simply to deny Hitler something that he wants — and furthermore, how do you know what Hitler wants anyway?"

100-5606

June 15, 1942

b7c

It has been ascertained that the Mr. Palmer of Paterson referred to in the conversation is Russell Palmer, a leader of America First in that city.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge

53517

53513

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO

FILE NO. 100-233

REPORT MADE AT OMAHA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/12/1942	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/25, 26, 29/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No indication of activities by America First Committee at Lincoln, Nebraska, since December 7, 1941.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to all Field Divisions dated March 16, 1942;
Report of [REDACTED] dated May 20, 1942, at Omaha. b7c

DETAILS:

Reference report of [REDACTED] reflects that a newspaper item dated October 3, 1941, indicated that there had been a meeting of the America First Group at the Student Union, University of Nebraska. This account did not list the names of those in attendance. It stated, however, that STANLEY LOWE, sophomore at the University of Nebraska, was organizer and acting chairman of the campus group. Former Congressman HENRY C. LUCKY of Lincoln was the principal speaker of the evening. LUCKY PAUL, grandson of HENRY C. LUCKY, and Miss MARIAN ALFORD of Nebraska Wesleyan, were also active at this meeting. A later newspaper item stated that this America First Committee had drawn up a constitution, and ARTHUR LOUIS HELMQUIST of the University of Nebraska Faculty was sponsor for this group.

At Lincoln, Nebraska

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RECEIVED-SECURITY DIVISION MAY 30 1942

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		CORRECTIONS	
<p>100-4712-1011</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</p> <p>DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8/SLC</p>		<p>b7c</p> <p>b7d</p>	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>1 - Bureau</p> <p>1 - Chicago</p> <p>2 - Omaha</p>		<p>COPIES DESTROYED 3-26-63 R-46</p>	

COPY IN FILE

[REDACTED] stated that he was not familiar with the activities of the America First Committee at Lincoln, but he believed that it was not favorably received on the campus and did not exist for a very long period.

[REDACTED] stated that he had no knowledge or information concerning STANLEY LOWE, who was organizer of this group.

When questioned as to HENRY C. LUCKEY [REDACTED] stated that he was quite familiar with Mr. LUCKEY, and although he believed him somewhat radical in his theories, he did not believe he was un-American and had no knowledge of any un-American activities in which LUCKEY might have participated.

[REDACTED] stated that he had not known of the connection of AXEL LOUIS ELMQUIST with the America First Committee but believed that ELMQUIST had only become sponsor for this group after being solicited to do so by some of the student body who were interested in the organization of this group. b7c b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did not believe that there had been any activity of the America First Committee in Lincoln since December 7, 1941.

[REDACTED] advised that he did not believe there had been any activity by former members of the America First Committee at Lincoln since December 7, 1941. [REDACTED] stated that he was not familiar with either STANLEY LOWE or LUCKEY PAUL and did not know the names of any other members of the America First Committee in Lincoln. He stated further that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was thought that ELMQUIST had only acted as sponsor for the America First Committee at the solicitation of members of this group and had not been active at all in any of the meetings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he had no information as to the America First Committee.

[REDACTED] stated that he had never observed any un-American tendencies or activities on the part of ELMQUIST, and it was his belief that ELMQUIST had merely loaned his name as sponsor to the America First Committee to enable this organization to comply with the requirements of the University of Nebraska.

b2
b7D

[REDACTED] was contacted and questioned as to activities of members of the America First Committee subsequent to December, 1941. This informant advised that he was not at this time in possession of information concerning the group, but advised that he would obtain the same within a few days. Reporting Agent contacted this informant a few days later and was advised that informant did not believe there was presently any activity of the America First Committee in Lincoln. Informant stated that HENRY C. LUCKEY, who had been quite active in the America First Committee, was believed to be leading a very quiet life and as far as was known, was chiefly concerned with managing the considerable property which he owns in the vicinity of Lincoln. This informant stated that he had no knowledge of AXEL LOUIS ELMQUIST, listed as a sponsor for this group. This informant made discreet inquiry of individuals residing in the vicinity of Lincoln who had been known to be isolationists prior to December 7, 1941. From these contacts, informant was reasonably certain that there was presently no activity of the America First Committee at Lincoln.

A Morning World-Herald newspaper item of October 3, 1941, also had listed Miss MARIAN AXFORD as a speaker at the meeting of the America First Committee.

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] her
limited activity in connection with the America First Committee, Report-
ing Agent believes that Miss AXFORD'S intentions were not un-American,
and there has been no indication that she has been engaged in any activity
of this nature since December 7, 1941.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7
b7

-- PENDING --

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE OMAHA FIELD DIVISION

At Herman, Nebraska

Will conduct a discreet background investigation of [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED]. If it is determined that from such investigation, [REDACTED]
is a loyal American, he should be interviewed in an attempt to deter-
mine whether he is acquainted with any present activity of the America
First Committee.

-- P E N D I N G --

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

53510

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 100-1800

REPORT MADE AT PORTLAND, OREGON	DATE WHEN MADE 6-5-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4-6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 5-21, 22; 6-2, 3-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE CHANGED AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, with alias, Peace Group			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Above organization has been meeting in Studio Building, Portland, under leadership Dr. PAUL COTTON, Albany College instructor. Organization has mailing list of approximately 50 members whose identity is confidential, [REDACTED] Written invitations by COTTON to attend meetings of group containing platform of organization set out. No set membership fee but funds have been collected at various meetings. No evidence of national affiliation; however, connection with America First Committee shown. DELLKRE LESSARD, ex-State Chairman of America First Committee, has been in attendance at various meetings and is reported to be heading an organization known as Waxus, anti-Semitic in character. Anti-Semitism has been displayed at Peace Group meetings, according to informants, together with support for Congressman CLARE HOFFMAN in connection with his speech entitled, "Haul Down the Stars and Stripes." Organization anti-British and anti-Russian, and German and Japanese sympathies have been displayed and blame for present war placed on Treaty of Versailles. COTTON has urged negotiated peace with Germany and Japan by this country and has indicated organization disbanded for the summer months at the conclusion of last meeting, held on 5-25-42.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/30/81 BY SP-8 JAC

10-19-90 SP-8 JAC

R-44

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Portland, Oregon, April 2, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED J. S. Lunsford SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-420 RECORDED INDEXED 67c
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Chicago 1 Pittsburgh 1 Phoenix 1 San Francisco 2 Portland	<div style="text-align: center;"> U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE JUN 15 1942 RECEIVED </div>

53511

53511

DETAILS:

AT PORTLAND, OREGON:

The title of this case is being changed to include the alias of Peace Group, which was secured as a result of instant investigation.

In reviewing this report, it should be kept in mind that it contains information concerning meetings that have been held by above organization under the guidance of Dr. PAUL COTTON, and the alleged influence of DELMORE LESSARD, ex-State Chairman of America First Committee prior to the time of the public announcement that the America First Committee was being disbanded.

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

53512

b7c
b2D

On December 13, 1941, this office received a communication from [redacted] reporting that on Friday evening, December 13, 1941, at the W. O. W. Hall, on Southwest Eleventh Avenue, a group of America First members gathered. He indicated that the group abused the United States of America and the President for declaring war on Germany and Japan, which verified his suspicions that the organization was American. Among other things, [redacted] indicated that he would keep his mouth shut, and get the names of, some of the offenders at the meeting if possible.

On January 30, 1942, a [redacted] furnished information regarding a [redacted] and a [redacted]. The information regarding the two individuals above-mentioned was derived from [redacted] membership in the [redacted] and she indicated that both [redacted] were members of that organization. [redacted] indicated that [redacted] pro-Nazi and received literature from [redacted] (thought to be [redacted]). Included among the literature received was a [redacted].

b7c
"Beacon Light." Both [redacted] were attempting to circulate the literature in the [redacted] and other places. [redacted] believed that both of the individuals mentioned were attending German meetings, and particularly, certain meetings held at Hood River, Oregon. Both [redacted] according to the informant, were critical of the administration.

b2
b7D
In connection with the above complaint, [redacted] was contacted telephonically by reporting Agent for any information he might have concerning possible meeting being held in his community under the name of the America First Committee or any other group that he thought might be closely allied with the same. [redacted] was unable to furnish any information along that line but indicated that he would communicate said information to this office in the event he should come into possession of such information. [redacted] was contacted on April 6, 1942, and is a personal friend of writer. However, to date no information has been received that such meetings are being held in [redacted] community.

b7c
b7D
In reviewing instant file, the same indicates that meetings of instant organization were first brought to the attention of this office on April 6, 1942 when [redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had received a written invitation to attend a peace meeting in the Studio Building, Portland, Oregon, to be held every Monday night at 7:45 p.m. [redacted] presented aforementioned Agent with the invitation he had received, which indicated that it was signed by PAUL COTTON and contained the platform of the organization in question. He had received the invitation from [redacted] at the above address, and although he did not recall the name of the individual who gave him the invitation he stated that he resided in [redacted]. The invitation furnished by [redacted] is being retained in instant file; in view of its pertinency to this investigation it is being set out herein verbatim as follows:

[redacted]
Portland, Oregon April 1, 1942.

"Dear Friends:

"Our recently organized Peace Group, formerly meeting in the Pythian Building will now meet regularly on Monday evenings at 7:45 at the Studio Bldg., 919 SW Taylor, (10th & Taylor) on the second floor (go to the end of the hall and turn left).

"Our platform now reads:

- (1) We favor an early peace by mediation, with justice to all the nations.
- (2) We believe that the war may be won, not merely by spending billions and losing millions of lives, but by presenting such just terms of peace to the opposing nations as shall cause the people of those nations to demand their acceptance.
- (3) It shall not be a part of our peace aims to maintain the color

"possession of any nation, but rather every country should be free, having its own trade with all the nations, with no one nation or Empire having its own trade with all the nations, with no one nation or Empire having a monopoly of materials.

(4) We oppose the "Union Now" plan for the U.S.A. and Gt. Britain, or any joint policing of the world when peace is restored, or any such plan that does not include all the nations.

(5) No one nation shall be disarmed more than other nations, for we must not have another Treaty of Versailles, to pave the way for another war.

(6) All nations, large or small, must have freedom of the seas.

(7) We favor an adequate defense of our own nation, rather than spreading our men and resources all over the world.

(8) We shall strive to elect those officials who are most likely to carry out such a peace program, and whose past record is most creditable.

"All loyal citizens of the U.S.A., regardless of political party, who are not fascist, Nazi or Communist sympathizers, are invited to join this organization.

"The following are proposals for immediate action recently adopted:

1. We ask Congress to demand immediate independence for India or else the U.S.A. will make, if possible, a separate peace with the Axis powers, withdrawing all their forces from outside this hemisphere.

2. We ask Congress to publish in the Congressional Record all the texts of negotiations between the U.S.A. and Japan, giving both sides, so the American people may know why we are in the war. We also ask Congress to publish the complete texts of all peace proposals that the Axis powers may give in the future together with the replies that our government makes to these proposals.

3. We ask Congress to guarantee safe passage of surplus food from the U.S.A. to the starving neutrals of Europe.

"Bring your friends who are not in favor of a "long war", or phone them, getting copies of our platform to as many as would appreciate such a plan. Is the above movement needed? - Then help us achieve our goal.

"Yours sincerely,

"PAUL COTTON."

[REDACTED] attended a meeting of the above organization held in the Studio Building, at 919 Southwest Taylor, on the evening of April 6, 1942, and a summary of the meeting as reported by [REDACTED] is set out as follows.

[REDACTED] An American flag was draped behind the speaker's table. The meeting was opened at approximately 8:15 p.m. by an individual who revealed his name as Dr. COTTON. At his request all individuals present stood and sang "The Star Spangled Banner." COTTON indicated that the quotations which he would make during his lecture were to be quoted from the periodicals entitled "Post War Preventative Council" and from the "National Council to Prevent War." Everyone present was going to be given a chance to talk, according to Dr. COTTON, and from the general comments that were made, [REDACTED] stated that he was of the opinion that the gathering was definitely anti-British, anti-Roosevelt, anti-Churchill, and anti-Eleanor Roosevelt, and in addition thereto, Wendell Willkie came in for his share of criticism. All were called war agitators by COTTON. COTTON was indicated by [REDACTED] as being very "cagey" and gave approbation to any suggestion made. According to [REDACTED] it was thought that the meeting was connected with the America First Committee because of the following circumstances. The question was asked from the audience if President Roosevelt had a right to give an opinion on India, and COTTON answered by saying that he wasn't a lawyer and was sorry that DELLMORE LESSARD was not present on that occasion to answer the question. [REDACTED]

b2
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[REDACTED] in view of possible racial prejudices that might be raised. In that connection, he indicated that racial prejudices were injected into the meeting in the following manner: that a man and a woman in the audience who seemed very rabid said that they had heard that the Jews were buying all the land from the Japs who were being evacuated and were importing Negroes to work the land in question. In answer thereto, COTTON said that the Japs were first given a number of days to evacuate and that General DeWITT then changed the order and gave the Japs 48 hours to leave and as a result, the junkmen in California, particularly, would stand around and purchase Japanese property for a few cents on the dollar.

[REDACTED] commented on the fact that the trend of the meeting seemed to be more or less in sympathy with the Japanese. In addition thereto, the name of LEO AYRES, the motion picture actor recently enrolled in the conscientious objector camp in this area, was brought up. The individuals present thought that it was too bad that AYRES had to pay for his board and keep while various Japanese people who were interned or placed in work camps earned money for their services. It was further noted that COTTON stated he had written to various motion picture houses, asking them not to take the AYRES pictures off the screen and urged all persons present at the meeting to patronize the AYRES pictures.

It was indicated that the organization as yet had no name and he was undecided as to what kind of a name to give the group. Consideration was

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given by COTTON to affiliating with some national organization which had the same views of isolationism. COTTON also revealed that it might be better for the organization to have no name at all, and he urged the individuals present to pass out copies of the platform and invitation mentioned, but not to give the distribution very much publicity, as the platform and invitation might fall into the hands of people who might not be friendly. In other words, according to [REDACTED] it was indicated that the members present be very choosy in the people they asked to attend the meetings.

In this connection, attention is again called to the interview reporting Agent had with [REDACTED] b

[REDACTED] also stated that it was indicated from a discussion in the audience that the organization was not interested in having another peace like the last one, which kept Germany down. He also touched on the treaty between Japan and Germany, to the effect that Japan was only to come to the assistance of Germany in the event that Germany was attacked and there were certain remarks made during the course of the discussion that indicated that there was a general feeling that the United States Navy had attacked the German ship "Bismark" as well as other German naval craft, before Germany attacked the United States.

As far as framing future policies of the organization, mention was made by COTTON of the National Council to Prevent War, which he indicated was at the time meeting in the Stock Exchange Building in Portland.

During the course of the meeting, a collection of \$3.50 was made, out of which \$2.50 in expenses were deducted. According to [REDACTED] the individuals present were of the older class of persons and, in his opinion, were definitely and apparently below the average type of person. There were, however, a man and woman present in the crowd who were apparently very well dressed and whom [REDACTED] was of the opinion might be paid propagandists. Their identity, however, was not ascertained. He was further of the opinion that many of the individuals present appeared to be of German descent or German nationals, and some of them spoke brokenly, in his opinion. In addition to the above discussion, mention was also made of British policy in India and it was pointed out that Britain could definitely not be trusted by India because of its previous colonial policy.

[REDACTED] did not meet anyone present at the meeting and people generally seemed to stay by themselves. None of them were recognized. [REDACTED] felt that in view of the fact that he was Jewish, that he had been spotted or was watched carefully by COTTON.

b7c [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
b2 [REDACTED] has been contacted and advised that he has not attended any
b7D further meetings of instant organization.

On April 8, 1942, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] residing at [REDACTED] reported to Special Employee
b7C Agent [REDACTED] by telephone, that one [REDACTED] an electrical
b7D contractor in Portland, residing at [REDACTED] had been
circulating America First literature and had been very active in making state-
ments against the government, especially since America entered the war. A check
of the indices of this office concerning prior information on [REDACTED] has brought
negative results.

b2 [REDACTED] by written report dated March 24 and
b7D March 27, 1942, advised this office, among other things, of certain information
b7C regarding present activities of the America First Committee. A complete record
of this information furnished by [REDACTED] is being retained in Portland file
100-1269. The basis of [REDACTED] information was a conversation in his office
with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] According to [REDACTED] at one time was
connected with anti-Semitic organizations and the conversation [REDACTED] had with
[REDACTED] was reported by [REDACTED] That portion
pertaining to America First Committee in substance is set out here as follows.

[REDACTED] advised that he had been told that the America First
Committee was disbanded at the start of the present war but that on the Monday
prior to the interview with [REDACTED] had attended an organization
meeting in the Studio Building, the head of which was Dr. PAUL COTTON. He
stated, however, that the real head was DELMORE LESSARD and, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attention is called at this point to the fact that [REDACTED] has
advised reporting Agent that when LESSARD resigned, PAUL COTTON was the acting
chairman of the committee and likewise, COTTON has stated that he was the
acting chairman. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LESSARD was asked where the inquirer could get certain
America First literature. The answer was that the literature could be obtained
from Reverend COTTON

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[redacted] went on in his report of conversation [redacted] to state that LESSARD, [redacted] was an occasional speaker at the Monday evening meetings in the Studio Building, but [redacted] was unable to advise as to whether or not any anti-Semitism was preached at the meetings. [redacted]

As far as COTTON's attitude on anti-Semitism is concerned, [redacted] was unable to furnish any information in that connection. However, he did indicate that COTTON thought that DELMORE LESSARD was one of the greatest men in America. It was further indicated that one of COTTON's staunch supporters was an individual by the name of [redacted]. [redacted] was further advised by [redacted] that the only head of anti-Semitism in the city of Portland was DELMORE LESSARD, and [redacted] acquaintance with LESSARD, according to [redacted] has dated from the spring of 1939.

[redacted] indicated that LESSARD for a period of time has been attempting to form an organization of his own, known as "Waxus," meaning White American Christians of the United States. It is LESSARD's intention, according to [redacted] to draw a definite line of demarkation between the Christian people of the United States and the Jewish population. The plan of the organization is similar to that utilized by the Mantle Club and the head of the organization is to be secret and to be designated by the title of Montezuma. Membership is to be \$10 per year and all membership funds are to be diverted to the Montezuma.

In connection with the Waxus meetings, [redacted] indicated to [redacted] that he had attended organizational meetings whenever such meetings were held, and a new group of individuals seemed to appear at each succeeding organizational meeting after the older ones had abandoned the project in disgust. There was no further indication, according to [redacted] as to just what progress LESSARD had made in further organization of Waxus.

It was further indicated that LESSARD attempted to inject anti-Semitism into the national America First set-up and took a trip to Washington shortly after or shortly before America First came out as an organization, at which time contact was made by LESSARD with Colonel Lindbergh, Rush D. Holt, and many other people in Washington. It was also indicated that LESSARD had contacted General WOOD, of Chicago, and other America First leaders. In [redacted]'s opinion, according to [redacted] LESSARD stayed clear of anti-Semitism in his first conversations with General WOOD, for the reason that when General WOOD became definitely aware of LESSARD's anti-Semitism, the control of the America First organization in the State of Oregon was turned over to [redacted] with complete authority to disband the organization or to keep it functioning, as he saw fit. [redacted] indicated that he expected future contact with [redacted] and, if possible, would secure further information regarding the present set-up of the America First Committee in Portland.

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In passing, it should be noted that [REDACTED] stated to [REDACTED] definitely that the organization meeting under the chairmanship of PAUL COTTON was the reminiscence of the old America First Committee.

In connection with the above report [REDACTED] attention is called to the fact that [REDACTED] on several different occasions has been interviewed by reporting Agent in this office and other information furnished by [REDACTED] in addition to that furnished by [REDACTED] from the interview indicates that Waxus was formed by LESSARD around 1938 from picked members of the old Anti-Immigration League which was founded in Portland in 1922, [REDACTED]

Among the individuals present at the first Waxus meetings, according to [REDACTED], was one [REDACTED] present address, [REDACTED] has a lot of information about the old Anti-Immigration League, which, according to [REDACTED] was formed during the above period to distribute propaganda against the loose immigration laws. [REDACTED] according to [REDACTED] however, did not attend any Waxus meetings after 1938, and [REDACTED] did attend approximately three meetings in LESSARD's office in the summer and fall of 1940, which was during the WENDELL WILLKIE campaign.

Different people attended these meetings, according to [REDACTED] and although the group was small and he didn't remember all of the names of those present, he indicated that he distinctly remembered the following individuals being present: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] according to [REDACTED] who presently resides at [REDACTED] had something to do with the Waxus organization and, according to [REDACTED] was mixed up during that same period with a possible reorganization of the Ku Klux Klan. [REDACTED] was indicated as being former partial owner of the [REDACTED]

During the three Waxus meetings that [REDACTED] attended, he indicated that LESSARD preached anti-Semitism, with particular quotations being made from the 17th and 18th chapters of Revelations, showing how the Jew was to be destroyed. According to [REDACTED] LESSARD was after him to head this organization, but, according to [REDACTED] LESSARD's chief purpose for the organization was to get money. In addition to the fee mentioned in the report of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that there was a \$10 initiation fee, plus \$10 a year dues, and LESSARD was to remain under cover as the top figure in the group. Indian names were to be used to designate the officers of the organization.

During this same period, according to [REDACTED] and contact FRITZ WEIDEMANN, then German consul in San Francisco, and the Japanese consul in San Francisco, to tell them

about the organization and, if possible, to secure their financial support. [REDACTED] was also asked to contact an individual by the name of [REDACTED] was indicated at that time as [REDACTED] California. [REDACTED] advised, however, that he never did contact the individual above described for the reason that he did not believe in LESSARD's anti-Semitic ideas, which, according to [REDACTED] was the sole reason for the desire to contact WEIDEMANN and the others. b7c b7D

The last contact [REDACTED] had with LESSARD was in January of 1942, when [REDACTED] also mentioned the fact that at LESSARD's request he contacted an individual with German connections who [REDACTED] the purpose being to secure financial support, if possible, from this individual for the America First and Waxus organizations. [REDACTED] stated that although he did talk to the individual in question, he, [REDACTED] did not express any German sympathies or personally solicit the support of the party. [REDACTED] did not recall the individual's name but stated that he was advised by that individual that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As a matter of fact, according to [REDACTED] money was received from this individual by LESSARD and it should be noted that the transaction is mentioned in reference report. The unknown individual described by [REDACTED] is unquestionably [REDACTED]

To summarize [REDACTED] connection with the America First Committee, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Through his connection with the organization and as a result of requests by LESSARD, [REDACTED] speeches made in Portland by the following individuals in behalf of the America First Committee: GERALD P. NYE, KATHLEEN MORRIS, Senator RUSH D. HOLT, Senator RUFUS HOLMAN, of Oregon, and Senator BURTON K. WHEELER.

[REDACTED] stated that he has in his possession a large volume of correspondence in connection with the America First Committee which he will make available to this office.

[REDACTED] has questioned, [REDACTED] who was a member of the America First Committee during LESSARD's regime, which touches on the handling of funds collected from members of the group by LESSARD. Questions and answers are in certified form. However, [REDACTED] refused to sign the same, according to [REDACTED] The questions propounded and the answers thereto are not being set out in this report, due to the fact that it is thought that they have no present bearing in connection herewith. However, the same are being retained in instant file for possible future reference.

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On April 13, 1942, [REDACTED] attended a meeting of the Race Group which was held in the Studio Building under the same circumstances as reported by [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] the meeting opened with the usual patriotic songs and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. The meeting was conducted by Dr. PAUL COTTON and it was attended by a total of twenty-three persons, [REDACTED]. All individuals present seemed to be over 40 years of age and in extremely moderate circumstances. The evening was spent in a denouncement of the Government for its war-like activities and it was brought out that India had turned down Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS' proposal and that India was very smart in doing so. One of the points that was particularly stressed in the meeting was that the United States should make a separate peace if Great Britain did not grant India immediate independence. Other statements were made that tended to show that Japan was really not the aggressor, but the United States was, in the present conflict.

[REDACTED] said that COTTON urged those present to transmit this information to their friends and that by doing so, they could not get in trouble as long as they didn't shout it from the housetop. COTTON indicated that he could get into trouble, but the members of the organization could not. One woman, unknown to [REDACTED] during the course of the meeting arose and said that she was afraid that Dr. COTTON would be incarcerated for discussing his sentiments and the sentiments of the group. Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH's name was mentioned during the course of the meeting.

[REDACTED] indicated that the entire meeting was very smoothly and capably handled by COTTON and the apparent intention of the meeting was to sow the seeds of discontent and to place the blame for the war upon Great Britain. [REDACTED] noted that Germany was not mentioned at all during the entire evening in a critical sort of way, or otherwise.

According to [REDACTED] it was interesting to him that in place of asking the people their names and addresses, they were offered pamphlets to read, provided that they signed their names and return them within a week or so. This seemed to be a clever way of finding out who was attending the meeting. A collection was taken up and \$3 or \$4 was the total sum involved. Dr. COTTON expressed himself openly as being well-pleased with the amount.

[REDACTED] has not attended any further meetings of instant organization.

[REDACTED] attended a meeting of instant organization on April 20, 1942, and submitted a written report of the activities during the meeting. The original report is being retained in instant file and is quoted as follows:

"I arrived at the meeting room, the assembly hall of the Studio Bldg. on the second floor at 7:50 P.M. where PAUL COTTON was delivering pamphlets to those assembled. "The Peace that Failed" is one of the pamphlets distributed. I was unable to secure a copy of this pamphlet but was able to secure a pamphlet entitled "India and The War" enclosed with this report, another matter which is being sent out is a copy of the Congressional record reporting a speech by CLARE HOFFMAN of Michigan ? dated Jan. 27th & 30th entitled "Haul down the Stars and Stripes." 1000 of these copies are being sent for and will be available at the next meeting.

"The meeting opened with the singing of the Stat Spangled Banner followed by the mass recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance." COTTON then read the platform contained in the circular mailed to me and proceeded to discuss the same.

"The theme of his talk appeared to be "the peace to follow the war" COTTON urged that we be tolerant to the terms involved win or lose that there should not be another "Versailles," he quoted from a German pamphlet concerning the "fault" of the last war which was not placed on Germany but pointed out the Austrian Hungary dispute immediately prior. He stated this pamphlet was not an American propaganda piece but was used as a history study in the German schools his words "We find, then, that the fault was not that of Germany who attempted to prevent war. He indicated that Hitler's rise to power came as a result of the Versailles treaty, that the Germans after the war tried a democracy and a "perfect" one at that, but because of the refusal of the English and allied powers to grant trade concessions this failed and Hitler's forces grew until he was placed in power. He stated that while he was hopeful that a system such as Germany had would become a fact in the U. S. A. that he was afraid that it would happen here, and that he hoped that if it did it would be on a considerable higher plane than that which Hitler has brought to Germany. He has openly criticized the British Imperialistic policy and the taking of colonies by the British & French as a result of Versailles. He seemed familiar with the history of Germany --- (illegible) the 1st World War & cited instance of French seizing upper Silesia contrary to the Versailles treaty; the attempt of the Germans to enter into a mutual trade agreement with Hungary or Austria whom he claimed was 90% German anyway & which attempt was turned down by the allied powers flatly.

"He cited from a text of WINSTON CHURCHILL after or during the last war as follows "900000 (7) are starving in Germany now is the time to talk of peace" as an example of the kind of man who is to dictate the peace after this war "Churchill Stalin & Roosevelt" it being apparent

"that these men did not meet with his approval. COTTON repeatedly cautioned against the dissemination of material to persons who might think the organization subversive and thruout the speech while justifying Germany in many senses COTTON returned to the thought that "We are Americans trying to make a more perfect America." However the lasting impression one had was that Germany was thoroughly justified in its position that England was the party at fault and that the United States and its present administration was playing into the hands of England, by issuing statements which would cause the German people to believe that if conquered the same results would occur in peace that followed as happened as a result of the Versailles treaty and that therefor the German people followed Hitler as the only alternative. He stated that it was therefor advisable to sue for peace with Germany i.e. with the people who after the horrors of war with the Russians during the past winter would welcome such a proposal its terms were just, fair, and reasonable & if Hitler was opposed to such a plan the people would force him into the background so that such a proposal would be accepted & welcomed with open arms.

"COTTON further stated that we are led to believe that the Germans are a cruel, uncivilized, and non-religious people, and stated that if we look at the German in America we know this is not true and that we in America are notoriously poor at attending church ourselves & hence should not criticize Germans.

"Numerous references were made concerning a letter received from a candidate for office stating that COTTON should be deported.

"A slight discussion was held and DELMORE LESSARD asked that D. D. HAIL a candidate for state legislature say a few words. It appears that HAIL was the party who wrote the letter to COTTON concerning his deportation and who told the assembly that he opposed every matter & platform for which they stood. He was talked to and interrupted and amid general bedlam requiring the appearance of COTTON with upraised hand at numerous occasions HAIL presented his views. Immediately following COTTON called on DELMORE LESSARD who seems to be the guiding hand who keeps the group within reason to rebut the statement of Major HAIL.

"LESSARD's contention was that we should not aid the British whose empire is already lost. That England refused the seas to all except those she desired to use them. That Hitler was not interested in the U. S. A. and was too busy in Europe that our destiny lay in the Pacific & our interested should be confined there. That we should bend every effort to win the war, but that the administration should not allow the Jewish international bankers the right to start, prosecute & run the war, and that the Jews controlling the situation were favored in Washington. Major HAIL appeared to agree with statement about the Jewish international banker.

"D. D. HAIL met a great many of those assembled, and entered into several post meeting discussions in one of which one woman was overheard to offer HAIL some literature concerning the views of this group.

"There apparently is no new name of the organization, but material seems to be continuous to be sent to COTTON from some source other than local.

"My impression is that COTTON is definitely pro-German in his feeling but nothing was mentioned concerning Japan by him.

"LESSARD is either sincere in his convictions concerning Jewish international bankers and England or is a moderator for COTTON from the standpoint of legal protection or otherwise. LESSARD attended this meeting in a condition of physical weakness due to an apparently serious & painful bowel disorder, stating that he had been under narcotic treatment for some 2 weeks.

"There was an attendance of about 34 or 35 people at the meeting. The name of each party securing a pamphlet is taken by COTTON when he distributes them. The group is composed of primarily women most of whom are of average or lower middle class. The list follows of those whose name I was able to secure

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
"The executive committee consists of the secretary a young man whose name I did not learn - apparently a Hitler sympathiser - COTTON, LESSARD, [REDACTED] and one other member whom I do not know who is the pianist for the songs. Also [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] in addition to the above meeting, was able to attend for a st time a subsequent meeting held in the same place on April 24, 1942, at which time [REDACTED] It is pointed out the above report of [REDACTED] that LESSARD had written to CLARE HOFFMAN for the p of securing excerpts from the Congressional Record, from the speech HOFFMAN which is mentioned above. A reply had been received from HOFFMAN, according which indicated in substance that he was unable to secure the excerpts the Congressional Record, in view of the fact that he, HOFFMAN, was being prosecuted by un-American interests in Washington. At this last meeting, resolution was passed by those present to support HOFFMAN and at that time advised that LESSARD drafted a letter commending HOFFMAN on his stand on Americanism and on his loyalty and advised the members present to support

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in his activities. Although [redacted] was unable to get the names of all the individuals present, he indicated that those he mentioned in the above report were also present at the subsequent meeting.

It should be noted that the [redacted] mentioned above is probably identical with the [redacted] mentioned previously in this report. [redacted] have been reported to this office for Silver Shirt activities. [redacted] name is unknown. [redacted] was a recent [redacted] and [redacted] as previously pointed out, has been noted for her America First activities. It should be noted that [redacted] advised that [redacted] circularized the meeting with [redacted] by means of a small piece of paper with his name inscribed thereon containing his views or theories or beliefs. It is religious in tone and is not being quoted herein. However, one of the circulars is being retained in instant file, with notations thereon by [redacted]

Attention is called to the fact that [redacted] mentioned herein, talked with COTTON on May 28, 1942, [redacted]

[redacted] However, no information was secured as to whether or not COTTON would continue his activities while in that community. COTTON denied that that time, according to [redacted] that his organization was in any way connected with the America First Committee. It is noted that [redacted]

Offices receiving copies of this report will consider the names mentioned herein residing within their territory as possibly being connected with activities of the America First Committee.

P E N D I N G

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE PORTLAND FIELD DIVISION

AT PORTLAND, OREGON:

Will continue contact with informants for the purpose of verifying subsequent activities of instant organization and, in particular, will contact [REDACTED] mentioned herein, residing at [REDACTED] for the purpose of reviewing the correspondence of the America First Committee which he has in his possession. b7c

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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Section 552a

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☐ (b)(7)(A)

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☐ (k)(7)

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DATE 10-13-90 BY SP-1 BJK/AL

FBI DETROIT 6-17-42 1-37 AM
DIRECTOR
MOON. AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, INTERNAL SECURITY & ORGANIZATION
COMPLETED. ORGANIZATION DISBANDED AND FORMER MEMBERS JOINED GERALD
L. K. SMITH'S COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION. REPORT ALREADY DICTATED.
WILL BE FORWARDED LATE THIS WEEK.
BUGAS

END
ACK PLS
OK FBI WASH DC 1-39 AM

4 JUN 23 1942
COPY IN FILE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

IS No. 1
IS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Butte FILE NO. 100-1750

REPORT MADE AT BUTTE, MONTANA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/13/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/8, 10-12, 14-17, 19-21, 23, 27-29/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation in Montana and Idaho indicates America First Committee apparently inactive and no indication of underground functioning at present time. **MARGARET LAUGHLIN** ascertained to be key figure of Subject organization in Butte, Montana, vicinity, but no longer active. **HARRY H. MILLER, WILLARD E. FRASER** and others identified as leaders in Billings, Montana, area. Investigation other Montana areas indicates no activity by Subject organization. **ROBERT W. ADAMS** identified as leader of Subject organization in Boise, Idaho, area, but no present activity known. **PAUL** and **VERA FLORY** identified as leaders of Subject organization in Caldwell, Idaho, area. Investigation other Idaho areas indicates Subject organization inactive.

RUC

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to all Field Divisions dated March 16, 1942.

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DATE 9/30/85 BY SP7/21/85

6/24/83

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Declassify on: OADR 10-19-90

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100-4712-42 15-7342	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES RECORDED & INDEXED b7c
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DETAILS:

AT BUTTE, MONTANA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Butte, Montana, on April 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, and 21, 1942.

From a review of the files of the Butte Field Division relative to any information contained therein pertaining to the America First Committee it was determined that on January 14, 1942, [REDACTED] whose identity has been previously furnished to the Bureau, informed this office that a new peace organization had come into existence in Butte, Montana, and that the local secretary of this organization, known as the America First Committee, is MISS MARGARET LAUGHRIN, who resides at [REDACTED] Butte, Montana.

He further advised this office that some literature had been passed out by this committee and that one of the circulars he had received was entitled "What Every Citizen Can Do To Defeat the War Bill," and that this circular was issued in the National Headquarters for the America First Committee at 141 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. He also furnished this office with other circulars he had obtained which were forwarded to the Bureau and are not being set out as they are not believed to be pertinent to this investigation.

It is noted that on February 3, 1942, [REDACTED] called at the Butte Field Division and stated that the America First Committee was sponsoring a trip to Helena, Montana, in order to appear before the Senate Legislative Federal Relations Committee for the purpose of opposing the passage of a movement in the Montana legislature to endorse the actions of President ROOSEVELT on his Lend Lease Measures.

[REDACTED] advised that the Butte representatives for the America First Committee for the aforementioned trip were headed by MARGARET LAUGHRIN and that the following persons, many of whom are connected with the Communist party, are making the trip: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
all of Butte, Montana.

CONFIDENTIAL

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X

Informant further advised that the representatives at this legislative session offered verbal protests to the measures before the Montana State Legislature and advised the Legislature that the America First Committee does not represent any political party, nor does it represent any particular social group.

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(C) [redacted] was again interviewed relative to any information he might possess concerning the activities of the America First Committee, and he advised that the America First Committee has not been active in Butte, Montana; continuing he stated that the Communist group immediately broke away from the America First Committee when Russia and Germany went to war and that even previous to that they had never really taken an active part in this organization. (C)

He stated that MARGARET LAUGHERIN was the Secretary or Chairman of this organization and that it was composed of several women who never really took an active part except to pass out a few circulars and handle hand bills, attempting to keep this country from passing the Lend Lease Measure and also from entering the present conflict. 53507

He further stated that after this country entered the war, it was his understanding that the America First Committee had quit functioning and that the organization is presently dormant in Butte, Montana.

In regard to MISS MARGARET LAUGHERIN, (C) [redacted] stated that MISS LAUGHERIN appears to be a reliable individual and has taken an active part in welfare work in Butte, Montana; that to his knowledge she had never been a member of the Communist Party, nor is she inclined to sympathize with the group, however, that she has had considerable influence in political groups due to her friendship with Senator BURTON K. WHEELER.

(C) [redacted] stated that it is his opinion that this organization is presently inactive and that with this country entering the war and the lack of organization which this particular group had previous to our entering the war, that it could not possibly survive at the present time. He stated that in the event he should receive any information which might indicate that this organization is still active, or is attempting to reorganize, he would immediately furnish such information to this office. It was determined through discreet inquiries of persons known to be reliable to this office and who have previously cooperated with this office, that MISS MARGARET LAUGHERIN [redacted] is believed to be reliable. b7

[redacted] advised that since the war has been declared there have been no pamphlets or circulars to his knowledge [redacted] at Butte, Montana.

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On April 21, 1942, [REDACTED] advised reporting Agent that the America First Committee came into existence in 1941 at the suggestion of MRS. BURTON I. WHEELER, wife of Senator WHEELER who furnished MISS MARGARET LAUGHRIN'S name to the National Headquarters at New York City, requesting them to furnish MISS LAUGHRIN with literature. [REDACTED] stated that MISS LAUGHRIN, in view of MRS. WHEELER'S suggestion, became secretary or chairman of the organization, but that it was impossible for her to find sufficient time to organize a strong chapter of the America First Committee in Butte, Montana.

She advised that the only activity participated in by members of the America First Committee was the connection with a speech made at Butte by Congressman O'CONNELL at which time a large amount of literature was passed out to those attending, and also at one time a number of representatives of the Butte America First Committee attended a legislative session at Helena, Montana, to protest against a motion being made there to endorse the policies of President ROOSEVELT in regard to the Lend Lease Measure.

This Informant further stated that the America First Committee in Butte, Montana, received contributions amounting to \$5.00 or \$6.00, and that not a single member of the organization had ever paid their dues in accordance with the requirements of the National Headquarters; that the previously mentioned amount is still being retained by MRS. DEAN PATTERSON who acts as treasurer for the group.

[REDACTED] further informed that there was never any regular election of officers for this group and that MISS MARGARET LAUGHRIN was the only real official officer of the organization. She stated that after war was declared that MISS LAUGHRIN received a couple of communications from the National Headquarters advising that the America First Committee was being dissolved and that there were certain deficiencies to be met, requesting the Butte Chapter to forward to the National Headquarters their dues so these deficiencies could be met. She advised that to her knowledge MISS LAUGHRIN never replied to these letters and that it was not necessary for the America First Committee to have any meetings to dissolve, inasmuch as it was in real an inactive organization from the very start.

[REDACTED] related that she recalled reading something in the "Madison Progressive" to the effect that CHARLES LINDBERGH had made a mention of the fact that this organization should attempt keeping its member and become a political party. She advised that to her knowledge MISS LAUGHRIN had never received any letters or communications indicating that the suggestion of CHARLES LINDBERGH was being followed by the America First Committee.

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It is noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on May 11, 1942, advised that he had conducted an investigation of [REDACTED] who formerly resided in Billings, Montana, and that his investigation revealed that [REDACTED] was active in the America First Committee. He also advised that [REDACTED] He advised that [REDACTED] could furnish further information concerning [REDACTED] activities in the America First Committee. b2 b7i b7d

It is noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and during the course of the interview furnished the following information concerning the America First Committee in Billings, Montana.

WILLARD E. FRASER organized and acted as Secretary of the America First Committee in Billings and did nothing else for quite a while. During this time he wrote numerous articles which were published in the Midland Review, Billings, Montana, and the Picket-Journal, Red Lodge, Montana. These articles and numerous speeches delivered by FRASER criticized President ROOSEVELT as a war monger and encouraged the United States not to aid England.

Certain political and family connections probably caused FRASER to become interested in the America First Committee. FRASER married the daughter of a poet named FROST. The FROST family and the MORROW family were friendly. FRASER attended the University of Colorado with one of the MORROW family and consequently became a friend of CHARLES A. LINDBERGH who at one time worked in a garage in Billings. Through these connections and due to a violent dislike for England, FRASER became enthusiastic about the America First Committee principles.

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[REDACTED] also advised that FRASER and the America First Committee received sympathy from the following prominent men of Billings, Montana. He was unable to advise whether or not they had contributed to its support.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] still advocates that the United States bring back its Army and Navy to this country and let the rest of the world go without aid. However, he volunteered that none of the above mentioned persons, including WILLARD FRASER, were disloyal to the United States at the present time. It is noted that [REDACTED] stated that the America First Committee had disbanded and had no activity at the present. However, he advised that although he thinks that WILLARD FRASER is not disloyal that he believes it would be a good idea to determine whether or not FRASER is advocating the ideals he previously advocated. b1D

[REDACTED] on May 15, 1942, advised that he could not recommend any of the above mentioned persons, who were supporters of the America First Committee, as proper persons to contact discreetly concerning the present activities of the America First Committee. b2
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A review of the Butte files reflects that [REDACTED] reported that WILLARD FRASER, President of the America First Committee, made a speech over the Z-Bar Net advocating that the United States purchase goods manufactured in China. The factories in China are owned by Japanese and it was rumored, according to [REDACTED] that FRASER was paid to make this speech by someone close to Japan.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] b7c

AT GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

The following persons, all of Great Falls, Montana, were personally contacted on June 4 and 5, 1942, with reference to obtaining information regarding any possibly activity of, or possible members of, the America First Committee, or any branch thereof, in the vicinity of Great Falls, Montana.

[REDACTED]

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All of the above named persons advised that they have never heard of an America First Committee or a branch thereof in the Great Falls community. They advised that in the event they are able to learn of any such activity, they will immediately contact the Butte Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and report all of the information that they have.

AT LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

On June 2, 1942, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were personally contacted and interviewed relative to obtaining any information they might have in their possession in regard to the America First Committee.

Both of the above named individuals advised that to the best of their knowledge there has never been in existence in Lewistown such an organization. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have never heard of any local branch of said committee or of individual membership therein in the community.

[REDACTED] advised that there has never come to his attention information which would indicate that the America First Committee is or was organized in the Lewistown area. He stated that to the best of his knowledge there are no members of the America First Committee in the territory.

All of the persons contacted were instructed to keep the above matter in strictest confidence. They advised that they will be glad to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the above matter and will immediately notify the Butte Office if pertinent information should come into their possession.

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AT BOISE, IDAHO

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on April 28, 29, and May 4, 1942.

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[redacted] advised that during the summer of 1941, Justice of the Peace ROBERT W. ADAMS had been elected head of the America First Organization in Boise, and that he understood that he had lost a great deal of his business as the result of his being associated with this isolationist group. He went on to say that he [redacted]

[redacted] that an organizational meeting had voted the leadership to him without his consent and against his will. [redacted] advised that Mr. ADAMS was never very active in the organization so far as he knows. He recalled that the group sponsoring the America First Organization in Boise held a few meetings, but that as far as he knows, the movement "died" quite some time ago and there has been no evidence that it has been active in any way since war was declared against Japan.

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[redacted] stated that America First had some sort of an organization in Boise during the summer months of 1941, but that nothing had been heard of the group in recent months. He went on to say that he did not believe that the America First Organization in Boise had ever held any meeting of any consequence and that, if the members were still meeting quietly, [redacted] stated that he has been acquainted with Justice of the Peace ROBERT W. ADAMS in a business way for several years, and believes that he is a loyal and patriotic individual. He added that he did not know that Mr. ADAMS is or was connected with the America First Organization in any way.

[redacted], who is a prominent merchant and a person who is very active in fraternal organization affairs, advised that quite some time ago he recalls seeing an article in one of the newspapers to the effect that the America First Committee was trying to organize locally. He stated that so far as he knows, the organization never did materialize in an active way and that there is no activity of any kind on its part at the present time. [redacted] stated that CHARLES A. LINDBERGH had visited Boise on a tour of the country immediately following his successful solo flight to Europe, and had been widely acclaimed, but that LINDBERGH's isolationist attitude in later years had not been popular in Idaho due to the fact that so many Idaho families had sons serving in the armed forces.

At the office of the Superintendent of Mails, it was ascertained that the America First Committee had never had a post office box or had any order been furnished the post office department indicating that mail should

be forwarded to any particular person who represented this organization.

Assistant United States Attorney E. H. CASTERLIN, who is prominent in political affairs, advised that the America First Committee had been relatively inactive in Idaho. He stated that there were a few isolationists who approved of the program advanced by America First and may have tried to develop an organization to affiliate therewith. He added that so far as he knows, there is no activity of any sort attributable to America First in Idaho at the present time.

[REDACTED] b2 b7c b7d

This investigation was continued until January, 1942, but it failed to develop anything definite relative to an America First Committee organization in Boise. [REDACTED] stated that he believes that the movement was among a group of disorganized sympathizers who were trying to organize and affiliate with the Committee and that several meetings were said to have been held to accomplish this purpose. He stated that the organization was never very active and that nothing had been heard of it in recent months.

[REDACTED] telephonically advised that on February 10, 1942, he contacted [REDACTED] in connection with a neighborhood investigation. During his conversation with [REDACTED] the latter mentioned the America First Committee and [REDACTED] attempted to draw him out on the subject. He was informed about the Committee and he was led to believe that there were a number of sympathizers among the Germans living in the particular area, but that they were not organized. [REDACTED] advised that he had heard rumors that about a year ago, America First meetings had been held in Boise, but that he had received no information in recent months which would indicate that the movement or sympathizers were active in any way at the present time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] advised that he knew nothing regarding
[REDACTED] and had never heard that any of these persons
had been connected with America First Committee.

AT CALDWELL, IDAHO

[REDACTED] advised that Caldwell had had a local unit of the America First Committee about a year ago. He stated that there has been no indication that there has been any activity of this group since the fall of 1941. When the organization was active, according to [REDACTED] VERA and PAUL FLORY were active in the group and the Boise Valley Herald, published by A. CORNELL and I. W. CORNELL, carried publicity relative to America First matters. [REDACTED] stated that VERA FLORY had used Post Office Box 634, Caldwell, Idaho, in an effort to organize a group called "Boise Valley Affiliated Peace Organization" following the decline of the interest in America First.

A review of many back issues of the Boise Valley Herald in the possession of [REDACTED] disclosed that the issue of June 26, 1941, quoted an article appearing in the Boise Capital News on June 20, 1941, concerning a protest by National Committeeman RAY McKAIG of the America First Committee, Boise, Idaho, to Secretary DOUGLAS STUART, and a request that the Caldwell Chapter be refused a charter as long as A. CORNELL remained as president. The same edition contained an open letter to the America First Committee by A. CORNELL concerning McKAIG's charges that CORNELL was a sponsor of draft evasion.

The issue of the Boise Valley Herald for June 19, 1941, contains a plea from the "Boise Valley America First Headquarters" to citizens asking that letters be written to members of Congress to avoid involvement of the United States in a foreign war.

[REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] stated that so far as he knew, America First had never been active in Nampa, Idaho. b7c b7D

When [REDACTED] was interviewed May 4, 1942, relative to the Silver Shirt Legion, he furnished the following information relative to America First Committee activities in Caldwell, Idaho.

[REDACTED] stated that he joined the America First Committee, Caldwell Branch, in June, 1941, and at that time it was being "pushed" by PAUL and VERA FLORY. He stated that the Committee continued to be active until the United States became involved in war on December 7, 1942.

According to [REDACTED] meetings attended by him were held at the Caldwell City Hall or the Church of the Brethren in Nampa, Idaho. These meetings were held every week or every two weeks. He stated that he had no knowledge that any meetings are or were ever held in private homes.

Meetings were called by mailing postcards or by announcements on local radio stations.

Dues were not fixed, but the organization was maintained by those interested making donations according to their means. [REDACTED] stated that he usually contributed 10 cents at each meeting as that was all he could afford at the time.

Literature was passed out at these meetings and this was from the national organization.

Attendance at the Caldwell meetings attended by [REDACTED] had a group of about fifteen. Meetings at Nampa had approximately 200 in attendance which included many outsiders, according to [REDACTED]

According to [REDACTED] there was no formal dissolution of the Caldwell Branch, but it "just died out".

[REDACTED] stated that he believed the following were the officers of the Caldwell Branch of the America First Committee:

Chairman- - - - -VERA FLORY
Secretary- - - - -Mrs. T. H. DARROW

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

The following individuals were contacted and questioned in regard to the America First Committee activities in their respective places of residence. In every case each individual advised that to his knowledge no America First Committee had ever been organized or functioned in the town or vicinity of his residence and that no word of any secret meetings of this Committee had ever come to his attention:

[REDACTED]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

The following individuals were contacted in regard to information concerning the America First Committee in their respective counties and all advised that the America First Committee had never been active in their counties and they knew of no individuals affiliated with the group and could offer no information as to the organization being active in their counties at this time.

In addition, they all advised that they knew of no member of the America First Committee residing in their communities and the following were contacted:

BOUNDARY COUNTY

At Bonners Ferry, Idaho: [REDACTED]

KOOTENAI COUNTY

At Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: [REDACTED]

SHOSHONE COUNTY

At Wallace and Kellogg, Idaho: [REDACTED]

BONNER COUNTY

At Sandpoint, Idaho: [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] b7c

AT TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

The following informants were contacted in an effort to determine any present activity of the America First Committee; however, results were negative. It was ascertained that prior to the entry into the war of the United States the America First Committee was not active in this portion of Idaho, the majority of the population being strongly in favor of all possible assistance to England and all out effort in the National Defense program.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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AT BUHL, IDAHO

[REDACTED], advised that to his knowledge there has never been a chapter of the America First Committee in Buhl, Idaho. He stated that the people have been too bitterly opposed to any isolationist thought to support, or even permit, such an organization to operate in Buhl. This opinion was subsequently verified by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that in his associations with practically all the citizens in the Buhl area, he has never heard the America First Committee mentioned except in a derogatory manner. He advised that he has never heard of this organization in Buhl, Idaho.

AT JEROME, IDAHO

The following informants furnished substantially the same information as reflected by investigation in the above named communities.


[REDACTED]

AT RUPERT, IDAHO

[REDACTED] was interviewed in connection with the instant matter and advised that he has not heard of the America First Committee being active in the vicinity of Rupert at any time, past or present. This information was verified by [REDACTED]

AT BURLEY, IDAHO

Investigation in Burley, Idaho, through the following informants resulted negatively concerning past or present activity of the America First Committee.



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REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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JUN 16 1942

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FBI PHILA JUNE 16, 1942
DIRECO XXX DIRECTOR
MOON. AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, INTERNAL SECURITY, TWO.
RETEL JUNE FIFTEENTH, FORT Y TWO.
ONE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED
TWO REPORT SUBMITTED JUNE SIXTH, FORTY TWO.
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6 JUN 18 1942

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

COPIES DESTROYED 3/24/58

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Carson.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Hendon.....
- Mr. Hoeman.....
- Mr. McGuire.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....

R-46

JUN 15 1942

10-19-90

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6-15-42

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FBI BUTTE
DIRECTOR

MOON. AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, INTERNAL SECURITY. RETEL JUNE
FIFTEEN NINETEEN FORTYTWO. INVESTIGATION COMPLETED THIS AREA.
REPORT SUBMITTED JUNE THIRTEEN LAST.

5 JUN 23 1942

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IS THIRD WORD SECOND LINE FORTYTWO PLS
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53503-670
5/26/58
R-44

- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Holloman
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 15 1942

TELETYPE

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease

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FBI MIAMI

6-15-42

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DIRECTOR

MOON. RE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, INTERNAL SECURITY. G. RETEL
FIFTEENTH INSTANT. THIS MATTER BEING HANDLED BY SA [REDACTED]
WHO HAS BEEN IN INSERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL, WASHINGTON FOR LAST
EIGHT DAYS. FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE TO BUREAU IMMEDIATELY UPON
HIS RETURN.

DANNER

ACK AND HOLDS
5-10 PM OK FBI WA [REDACTED]

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100-4712-42
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 16 1942

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1 JUN 24 1942

67C
June 10, 1942

atty General Biddle
Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE
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JUN 12 1942
FED. BU. OF INV.
10-19-90

Dear Sir:-

This Friday the most flagrant and deplorable
example of fifth column activity is asked
to take place under the sponsorship of the
American for Peace (formerly the American
First Committee) This traitorous group is led
by Homer J. Haase notoriously known for his
pro-Nazi sentiments. The group, as I
am informed - and know the American First
quite correctly so, is going to
peace with Hitler. Will
be allowed to take place? What are our
fighting for, what are we doing without
for - to allow Nazis to hold meetings for

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&
INDEXED
100 - 4713 - 426
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 19 1942
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

openly Mr Biddle, this meeting MUST be
stopped no more
about it

American First Committee
American for Peace

July 7, 1942

100-4712 - 426

Brooklyn, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BJS/col

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Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that your letter dated June 10, 1942, directed to the Attorney General, has been referred to this Bureau.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this matter to the attention of the Federal Government are indeed appreciated. You may be assured that the content of your letter has been noted and will receive appropriate consideration.

Should you obtain any further information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square, New York, New York.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

53500

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
cc: New York with copies of incoming
M A T E
★ JUL 8 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APR 50.6 8 711

JUL 17 1942

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
RECEIVED

Dep't. of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

10-19-90

SP895/CAL

FED. BU. OF INV.

Enclosed is an old flyer I came upon. I thought your office might want to keep it in the departmental files for future reference. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] of Island Park arranged the meeting and a subsequent one. It opened up with a salute to the U. S. flag in Nazi-like fashion. The first two speakers condemned England and refugees--the usual America first line of attack. All this was long ago but one cannot help wondering where these people are now and if Mr. Kuzniok is a retired Army colonel, he might be a little looking up on [REDACTED] RECORD & INDEXED 100-4712-427

He appeared as the highest authority on what England could not do militarily and he definitely gave a lot of misinformation as to conditions in continental Europe. 273 53497 JUN 23 1952 [REDACTED]

Respectfully submitted,

One who dares not sign his name. [REDACTED] b7c

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

8:30 O'clock

at Island Park Firehouse

James Coveny, CHAIRMAN
FREEPORT CHAPTER

James Blake, LONG BEACH

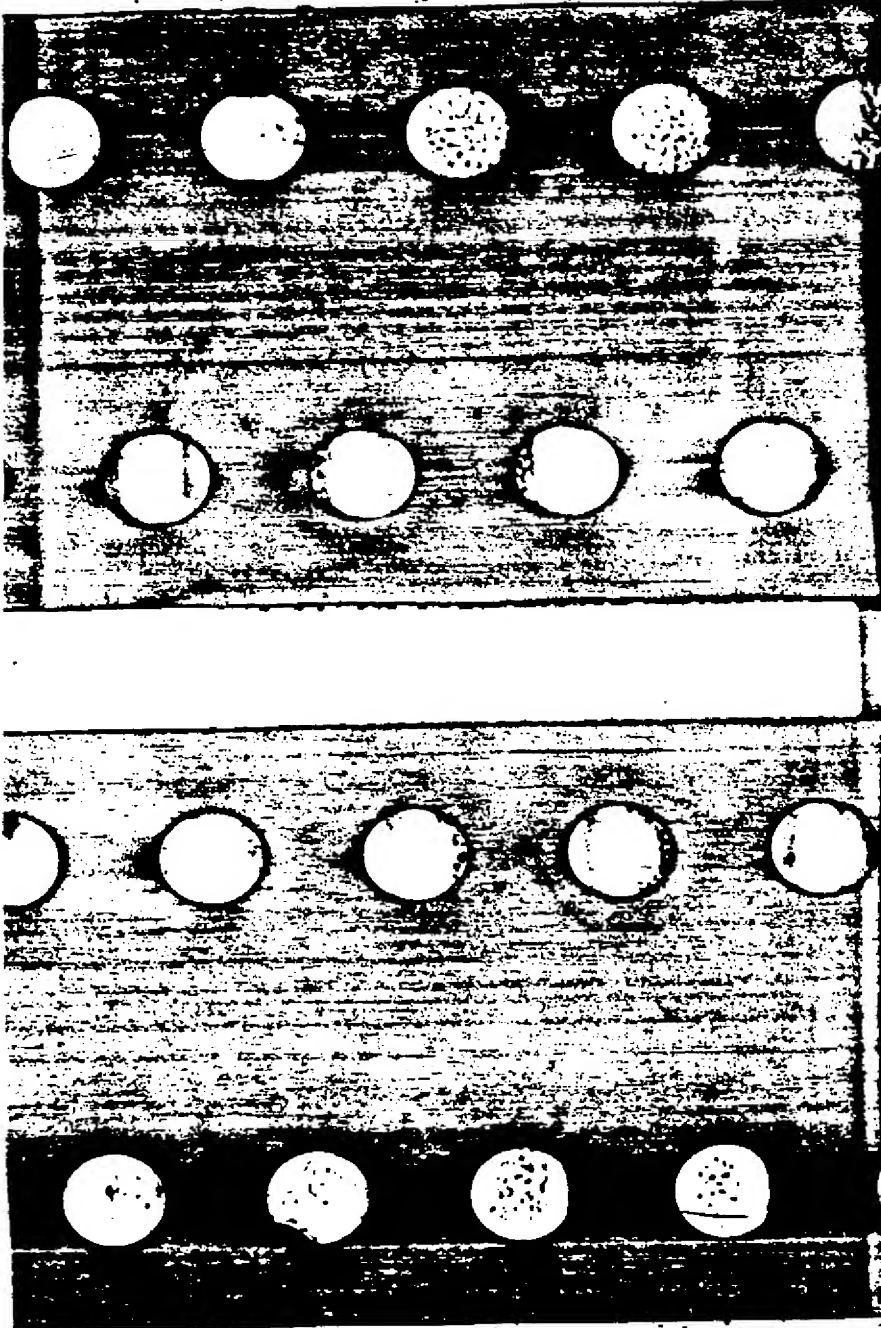
Col. J. V. Kuznick

RETIRED, U. S. REG. ARMY

Mothers and Fathers of America! A crisis confronts us. America First has kept us from a shooting war. Join now to keep your boys from dying on foreign soil. Island Park Chapter being formed.

10-19-40
This Is Not Our WAR

Our friends are free



FILES DIVISION
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F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Dep't. of Justice

Washington

Dr. C.

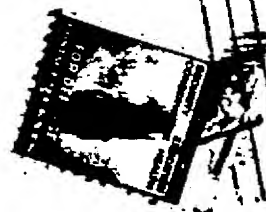
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **#100-1077**

REPORT MADE AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	DATE WHEN MADE 6-22-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-16, 30; 4-3, 4-1942	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No activities by AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE or former members in Salina, Kansas or in Joplin, Missouri.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Kansas City, Missouri, May 16, 1942.

DETAILS:

At Joplin, Missouri:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that to the best of his knowledge there has been absolutely no activity by the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Joplin for the past year and a half. [REDACTED] further stated that the only person in Joplin who had ever done any organizational work for this group was a man by the name of ERNEST HINSON who at the present was doing nothing to further the organization although he is still a resident of Joplin. [REDACTED] further stated that he, together with some of the members of the City Council, had been members of this group until they became aware of the real purpose and that shortly after this, all activity ceased, this being about a year and a half ago.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] in September 1941 and that since that time he has heard absolutely nothing concerning any activities of [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-428
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AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

#100-1077

6-22-42

The AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. It is [redacted] opinion that this organization at the present time has no members and is holding no meetings.

[redacted] related that ERNEST HINSON was the organizer of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Joplin about two years ago and also that after being active for about six months in organizing and giving out literature, HINSON severed his connections and consequently all activity had ceased. [redacted] further stated that no one had taken HINSON's place as there was no indication of any activity in any form in Joplin for the past year or year and a half.

[redacted] upon contact advised that this was his understanding that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE was organized about four years ago by ERNEST HINSON in Joplin, Missouri and also that this was one of the first chapters to be organized if not the very first. [redacted] further stated that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE was incorporated in the State of Missouri and also that the only person who was promoting this group was HINSON who had come to Joplin from Elgin and Chicago, Illinois. The writer was advised that many prominent people in Joplin at one time belonged but about a year or a year and a half ago all activity ceased and nothing has been done by HINSON or anyone else along this line.

[redacted] upon contact advised that he knows of no activity in the America First Committee in Joplin at the present time.

At Salina, Kansas

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted]

[redacted] stated that Mrs. HONKA was the secretary of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. He advised that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE was not very popular in and around Salina, however, they held one rally at which time Senator CLARK of Missouri and Senator of Kansas, CAPPER, made speeches. He advised that since the Pearl Harbor attack there has been no evidence of activity on the part of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE or any of its members.

[redacted] advised that a VERNER SMITH and Mrs. ELLA BOSSEN HONKA, both of Salina, were the organizers of

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the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Salina. [REDACTED] recalled that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE had one big rally in Salina some time in the Fall of 1941, at which time Senator CLARK of Missouri and Senator CAPPER of Kansas made speeches. Concerning VERNER SMITH, [REDACTED] advised that he is an American Legion man and has a son in the present conflict and is believed to be very patriotic and would not do anything to harm the United States now that we are in the present conflict. Relative to Mrs. HONSKA [REDACTED] advised that she had written many articles for the Salina Journal, some of these articles being of an un-American nature, however, since December 7, 1941 she has discontinued writing these articles and it is believed that her attitude has changed on the International situation. He advised further that Mrs. HONSKA's husband, who was a building contractor, passed away this spring and since then he has not heard much about Mrs. HONSKA. He stated that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE was not popular in Salina and they did not have a large membership.

[REDACTED] advised that VERNER SMITH was the Chairman for the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE at Salina, Kansas while Mrs. ZELLA BOSSEN HONSKA was the Secretary. The AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE headquarters were on South Santa Fe Street, however the organization was not very popular and they did not have a large membership. It is [REDACTED] knowledge that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE is not active any more, nor is there any indication that any of its members are attempting to organize. He advised that in the Fall of 1941 some literature was given to some of the inductees and that MR. F. A. MC CARTY, who is a member of the local Selective Service Board had called in the inductees and had taken signed statements from them, and he stated these signed statements were to the effect that Mrs. ZELLA BOSSEN HONSKA had given them the literature right before they were leaving for the Army and had requested them to call up to her home the next morning. According to [REDACTED] the inductees visited Mrs. HONSKA, however they did not take heed of her ill advice.

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[REDACTED] stated that in the summer of 1941 a group of inductees received some literature from Mrs. ZELLA BOSSEN HONSKA who was secretary for the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE for the Salina territory and they decided to talk to Mrs. HONSKA prior to leaving for the armed services of the United States. After this talk [REDACTED] took signed statements from the inductees which were turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for investigation. It was through this man that [REDACTED] became aware of the activities of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. He advised that VERNER SMITH, an American Legion man, was chairman of the local chapter while Mrs. HONSKA was Secretary. He stated that the AMERICA FIRST movement was not very popular in Salina and thus the membership of the Committee was held to a minimum. The biggest event put on by the Committee took place in the Fall of 1941 and Senator CAPPER of Kansas and Senator CLARK of Missouri were engaged to speak at the Bowman's Park in Salina. According to [REDACTED] the

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

100-1077

6-22-42

Salina Chapter of the America First Committee maintained headquarters on South Santa Fe Street until the Pearl Harbor Attack, at which time the flags were taken down and the committee ceased to function. [REDACTED] had not heard of any effort to revive the committee and remarked that certainly VERNER SMITH, the last chairman of the group, did not do so because he is now behind the war effort of the United States and has a son in the service. In his opinion if anyone should attempt to revive the group it would be Mrs. HONSKA, who was very radical. However he had heard nothing to that effect.

[REDACTED], stated that the America First Committee was organized in Salina in May 1941 and maintained headquarters on South Santa Fe Street. He stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He advised that the group encountered many difficulties and many people in Salina turned against it. Therefore, they did not have many members. He stated that they held one rally in the fall of 1941 when Senator CLARK of Missouri and Senator CAPPER of Kansas gave talks on the International situation. He stated that after the Pearl Harbor Attack by the Japanese that the Committee disbanded completely and that they are not operating now.

[REDACTED] advised that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Salina, Kansas was disbanded immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack December 7, 1941 and there is no evidence that the Committee or any of its former members are still organized and operating.

- PENDING -

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

#100-1077

6-22-42

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION

* At Wichita, Kansas, will contact [REDACTED] in an effort to develop information regarding the nature and activities of the organization being formed by [REDACTED] of which he is alleged to be the head. b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

DETROIT FILE NO. **65-1086**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 6/22/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/29, 30; 6/1, 4/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE 0 AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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America First Committee organized chapter in Detroit, Michigan, 1941, under leadership of ROBERT F. VIETIG. Meetings and propaganda vigorously urge non-intervention. Leaders closely collaborated with GERALD L. K. SMITH. Immediately after December 7, 1941, America First Committee disbanded and GERALD L. K. SMITH invited all America First Committee members into his "Committee of 1,000,000." SMITH follows program appealing to former America First Committee members in that it is anti-administration, anti-Communist and anti-Jewish. America First Committee completely inactive and ROBERT VIETIG advises others to "lay low for the time being."

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 13, 1942, at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

[REDACTED] submitted a clipping from "The Detroit Free Press" of March 30, 1941, which contained the comments of PEARSON and ALLEN to the effect that the German-American National Alliance, which was closely associated with the German-American Bund, was urging contributions to the America First Committee and attendance at the meetings of the America First Committee.

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 5 - Bureau 3 - Chicago 4 - Detroit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FILE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">100-4712-429</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">JUN 25 1942</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RECORDED INDEXED</p>
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The America First Committee had its offices in the Industrial National Bank Building, [REDACTED] In connection with another investigation it was established that [REDACTED]

The chairman of the Detroit chapter of the America First Committee is ROBERT F. VIETIG. [REDACTED]

A meeting of the America First Committee was held on March 14, 1941, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Book-Cadillac Hotel. The presiding chairman was ROBERT F. VIETIG. A summary of the meeting, as furnished by [REDACTED] is as follows:

VIETIG spoke about the war propaganda over the radio and in the movies and suggested that whenever the members are annoyed by such a motion picture they should leave the theater and demand a refund of their money. The committee had already questioned several theater managers as to why they exhibit war propaganda movies without exhibiting non-intervention propaganda movies. He said the theater managers promised that they would show motion pictures presenting both sides. Mr. VIETIG said it was useless to write to WALTER WINCHELL or DOROTHY THOMPSON but that the members should rather write to the sponsors that their products would be boycotted if these two were not cut off the air.

Mr. EARL JEFFRIES, a visitor from the Chicago chapter, addressed the audience, saying that meetings were being held in many cities that night; that membership in Illinois had already reached 1,000,000 persons and that he was going into every state to organize similar chapters. Mr. JEFFRIES persisted that some day the America First Committee would be the largest political group and that already it had the support of Congressmen and Senators. It was suggested that the Committee meet every other Friday but that in the meantime smaller groups should meet in homes and similar places. It was announced that literature just published by the leading military authorities was available to members at the committee office. Members were urged to write letters to advise the President to keep us out of the European and Asiatic entanglements. Members were urged to get their friends to do likewise, while there is still time, because the President is still very sensitive to public opinion now.

VIETIG then introduced the main speaker of the evening, Dr. GEORGE H. DERRY, who spoke on "Our Foreign Policy." Dr. DERRY said that the "lend-lease" bill had been passed to help the international bankers. In

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order to preserve the democracy of the United States, it should keep out of European and Asiatic wars. The Washington boys should restore the Constitution of the United States and keep the international bankers out of Washington. He said another purpose of the lend-lease bill was to aid the imperialists of Britain, who are the Rothschilds. "America was forced into the last war by a few powerful politicians who made democracy safe for the Rothschilds, Mandelsohns, Warburgs, their associates and confederates, and their tribes. Baruch and Brandeis were Wilson's aides."

DERRY then said that as a secret service agent in the last war he learned that Baruch, Brandeis and others met in Chicago to make a deal concerning battleships. Outrageous lies were perpetrated on the American people. The condition for this war was created by the Versailles Treaty. The Versailles Treaty was also written by these same politicians to serve their own selfish interests. "When Hitler rose to power he got rid of such international bankers. So did France and Japan. If China had it wouldn't be involved in war at this time."

Dr. DERRY then explained how the international bankers, especially the Morgans, took control of Wendell Willkie to make sure they would win the election in either event. Both candidates lied about keeping the United States out of war. Any senator who opposed aid to the international bankers was called into the President's office and reprimanded by Baruch. There is no use to be scared into this war because it would be impossible for Hitler to invade the United States. Britain wouldn't help the United States any more than it helped Poland. This is because of the rulers of Britain. In other words, the Rothschilds, who are trying to rule Washington. The big four who are really ruling the United States from Washington are Baruch, Governor Lehman of New York, Henry Morgenthau and Felix Frankfurter. It is up to the 86% of the American people to decide if they want to wind their sons to foreign lands to restore the British rulers. It is up to the mothers who may get a casket and a tag with a son's name on it and not be sure that it is her son.

[REDACTED] also exhibited to the writer a letter [REDACTED] by S. J. ZUSMANN, chairman of the subversive activities committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States. This letter contained a report of the meeting of the America First Committee at Cass Technical High School on July 3, 1941. The chairman of the meeting was ROBERT VIETIG and the principal speaker was Senator Nye. ROBERT VIETIG, secretary of the Detroit branch of the America First Committee, spoke first at great length and then introduced Senator Nye. These talks were

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violently anti-British and anti-administration and the audience appeared to be highly enthusiastic and vociferously "booed" the President of the United States and Cabinet members Hull, Knox, Stimson and Ickes. After the conclusion of Senator Nye's talk, ROBERT VLETIG again spoke and made the statement that virtually all the pro-war and interventionist sentiment comes from the southern states.

[REDACTED] supplied the writer with a report of the speech of ROBERT VLETIG delivered at the American First Committee rally in Redford High School auditorium on August 27, 1941. The report of this meeting was made by [REDACTED] who attended the meeting in person and took the following notes: b2
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"Roosevelt doesn't really want war; Roosevelt faces internal American revolution by trying to put United States into European war.

"Very few people know a little forum at the University of Michigan, where Wheeler, an affable down to earth American, debated with a U. of M. professor. I was amazed at this professor sitting for half an hour in utter confusion. This pygmy became more of a pygmy compared to Wheeler, he absolutely cringed to Wheeler, who has been round the world 4 times, spent a week-end with Kai-Shek, and says no one has the right to dictate the disposition even of his own son's life.

"Those who control your movies are like the 4th ungreased wheel--3 go quietly about their business, but the 4th wheel makes all the noise.

"Congressmen from southern states are all for war, and super-annuated Stimson who was too old for the Civil War. I feel very sorry for him--a puppet for the war party. And 83% of the southern senators, who represent private privilege, are against labor, and in general for war. 90% of the real Americans, like Wheeler and Nye voted for labor.

"No difference between world war and now. Both between 2 gigantic economic groups, but stakes are higher now, because we're in the middle, between Atlantic and Pacific. We say to Japan, you can't have a word to say about China, but we back up England's claim to domination of a continent.

"I would like to see the Peace Treaty that Hitler signed with Churchill three months ago. Remember, this is precedent #1, the world war treaty was drawn secretly before the war.

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"If we play Churchill's game by fighting Japan and at the same time play Hitler's game by taking American navy out of Atlantic, doesn't that sound like an agreement between Churchill and Hitler?

"England's still sending American goods to South America.

"Roosevelt's a very tired person, and I think Roosevelt deep in his heart, thanks God for the resistance of America First, because he does not want war.

"We have a big job to open an America First chapter here.

"We've got to do more than keep U. S. out of war. We've got to keep the minnys out of Congress and out of Lansing...We're headed for something a lot more vicious than we realize.

"England brings candy over here. Why do they need convoys to go back?

"I hope they tax everyone of you so you know you're being sold down the river, and not the American river.

"Don't allow your rifle or shotgun to be taken from you under any pretext from now on. You know the Spanish experience...The aliens and alien philosophies that run this government had better not try to take hunters' guns from them. Don't let your guns leave your hands. That is your inalienable right. And keep them well-oiled like all good hunters do... I'm more afraid of what's happening here.

"Please watch moving pictures and forward notes on propaganda to Wheeler or Clark, it will help them in their work.

"The Committee of One Million is doing an excellent job in Detroit."

[REDACTED] exhibited to the writer a clipping from "The Detroit News" of April 8, 1941, which carried a new item relating that an America First Committee luncheon was held at the Hotel Statler, Detroit, Michigan, on April 7, 1941 and the principal speaker was Mrs. BURTON E. WHEELER. Mrs. ROBERT VIETIG presided. Mrs. WHEELER in her speech said that SIDNEY HILLMAN and ERNEST BEVIN are Communists and that the United States is controlled by SIDNEY HILLMAN, BARNETT BARUCH and FELLY

(Detroit file 65-1086)

FRANKFURTER. In an item in "The Detroit Free Press" of July 20, 1941, which [REDACTED] also exhibited to the writer, ROBERT VIETIG announced that the three-room suite formerly occupied by the America First Committee at the Industrial National Bank Building had just been expanded to a five-room suite. VIETIG added that the America First Committee expected to have 50,000 members in Detroit. b2 b7

[REDACTED] also exhibited a clipping from the "Detroit Times", dated July 24, 1941, which reported that an America First rally was held at the Cass Technical High School on July 23, 1941, and the principal speakers, ROBERT VIETIG and Senator GERALD P. NYE, attacked President Roosevelt and his administration.

Also, an item from "The Detroit Free Press" dated August 15, 1941, reported that a rally of the America First Committee was held on August 14, 1941, in Cass Technical High School and ROBERT VIETIG was quoted as having said, "If we do go to war, however, we will soon be standing alone against a hating world, internally bankrupt and bereft of the four freedoms we set out to deliver."

At a meeting of the National Workers League in September of 1941, according to [REDACTED] ROBERT VIETIG delivered a vehemently anti-Jewish address. Informant stated that he had learned from a confidential source but he was not at liberty to reveal that ROBERT VIETIG was working with GERALD L. K. SMITH in connection with SMITH'S campaign for election to the United States Senate from the State of Michigan in 1942. The confidential source also indicated to informant that VIETIG also had aspirations to become a United States Senator.

Before the United States actively entered the present war, VIETIG had stated [REDACTED] that he had a guaranty of a thousand dollars a month from Detroit business men.

ROBERT VIETIG also admonished PARKER SAGE, who was active in the National Workers League, to "lay low for the time being" just like he, himself, was doing.

[REDACTED], Michigan, stated that he attended a meeting of GERALD L. K. SMITH'S Committee of 1,000,000 in September, 1941. SMITH introduced VIETIG to the audience and invited VIETIG to sit on the platform with him but VIETIG did not do this. [REDACTED] stated that he knows the Detroit chapter of the America b6 b7

(Detroit file 65-1086)

First Committee is now inactive but he firmly believes that VIETIG is working with SMITH and that the entire membership of the America First Committee is now associated with GERALD L. K. SMITH.

[REDACTED] exhibited to the writer a report of the meeting of the America First Committee at Cass Technical High School on November 7, 1941. ROBERT VIETIG, executive secretary of Detroit's America First Committee opened the meeting by urging the audience to continue the telephone and telegraph campaign against the Neutrality Act. He said that he had spoken with Senator WHEELER at 6:00 P. M. that night and that the Senator had predicted a vote that very evening on the act. VIETIG said, "I don't say that we will win but we have made strides because you people have been on your toes. If we lose in the Senate even by ten votes it is still a victory. We may lose because of the votes of some southern senators. We have gone into enemy territory (applause). The American people will win (more applause)."

VIETIG called attention to the meeting held the night before in the same auditorium by the Committee of 1,000,000 and said, "The America First Committee has no connection with the Committee of 1,000,000 but we have the same goal."

VIETIG then read a telegram from General ROBERT E. WOOD urging opposition to the repeal of the Neutrality Act. VIETIG called the administration the "war party" and ridiculed WILKIE for his agreement with the President's foreign policy. The members of the audience were urged to telegraph their congressmen and the meeting suffered an intermission while telegraph forms were distributed and completed messages and money were collected. VIETIG continued that the southern Congressmen are the ones who favor the war because southerners are anti-labor anyhow.

VIETIG then distributed some literature entitled, "Who Wants War?"

VIETIG next criticized PRESTON BLOSSON of the University of Michigan and said that there was a new chapter of the America First Committee at Washtenaw County which would strike at him. Then VIETIG complimented the Detroit Times for its expose of "Russian Religion" and read from this paper the order of Colonel DUNCAN, LOWRY Field, Colorado, prohibiting soldiers from attending churches where the administration's foreign policy was criticized. (The audience boomed).

VIETIG then introduced the speaker of the evening, Bishop RAYMOND T. WADE. WADE said nothing concerning the America First Committee

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or any of its policies. He merely explained how churches were being put out of existence in Russia.

After WADE concluded, VIETIG resumed and said that, "I and America First don't and never have subscribed to anti-Semitism." He then referred to a Dr. GLASIER (phonetic) on the West Coast, former head of B'nai B'rith, who has been speaking for the America First Committee on the West Coast. VIETIG then said "For my part there is no anti-Semitism and there should not be in America."

[redacted] exhibited to the writer a clipping from "News Week" magazine, dated November 7, 1941, which stated, "America First Committee is beginning to fall apart." It continued to say that General WOOD is still talking of disbanding the group soon; that WINDBERGH has told friends he fears he must shortly give up and offer his services to the United States government.

[redacted] exhibited to the writer a handbill announcing a "No foreign war rally" by the Oakland County chapter of the America First Committee at McConnell School, Pontiac, Michigan, on Sunday, October 16, 1941, at 3:00 P. M. The headquarters of the Oakland County chapter was stated to be 553 South Jesse Street, Pontiac, Michigan. It was further announced that GARLAND L. ALDERMAN, Oakland County chairman, would preside. [redacted] b2 b7c

[redacted] It was also announced that FLOYD McGRUFF, who covered Europe and Versailles as "European chief of International News Service during Wilson's folly" would speak.

[redacted] exhibited to the writer a document entitled "Michigan's America First November News Letter" signed by ROBERT VIETIG, executive secretary, Michigan America First Committee.

"Lord Strabolgi, Laborite member 'House of Lords, London: When you asked Churchill's government why they had not gone to Russia's aid, were you really serious or was that for 'home consumption', on the Yankee Front? Good Lord! You can't possibly be that naive .. or can you? You must have lunch with Winnie or Rudolph, one day, real soon. Mr. President: What did you really mean when you said, 'We're in this fight to a finish'? To finish what...? The Constitution?...The Declaration of Independence or both? Frank Knox: The other day you sent a group of graduate officers on their way asking them to take this thought 'We are standing in the middle of our dead', with them, Did you mean to include the group of

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American boys you sent to their graves in a leaking twenty year old submarine last summer while you gave the American Navy to aliens who plan to take America into their empire, without either a shot or the consent of Americans. The dead are the peoples' The guilt is yours. Business as Usual: For those who inquired--You can obtain the Lloyd Machinery catalogue from London or send four dollars to The First National Bank of Chicago and receive this complete english Machinery and parts catalogue, direct from London, every two weeks. Printed in both English and Spanish, for the South American Trade, terms cash. Delivery--three weeks, London to New York. Anything from a dentists drill to heavy duty machinery. If you suffer from Priorities (four out of five do) see Churchill or Vietig. New York Central, Pennsylvania and other American Railroads: In case you find it difficult to buy rails please contact the United States Government. They have just received a nice, fresh shipment of GERMAN MADE RAILS MARKED 'KRUPP-ESSEN, GERMANY'. Better hurry before they are all gone. They're using them for the Army at Fort Dix, N.J. They just arrived last month from Cuba. Detroit News--Page four..(AP), Oct. 30: Neutrality fight, Senate--As little as FIVE VOTES Switched from the pro war to the anti war side will KEEP THE NEUTRALITY ACT*INTACT. These SOUTHERN votes are in doubt. Wire them to vote against repeal Senators, Robert R. Reynolds, Richard B. Russel, Theodore G. Bilbo, Wall Doxey, Abe Murdock, Denis Chavez, Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D. C. DON'T FAIL TO WIRE OR WRITE THESE SIX ALONG WITH PRENTISS BROWN.. DRAFT EXTENTION WAS LOST BY ONLY ONE VOTE. A FEW WIRES OR LETTERS.. YOURS ALONE.. MAY SPELL VICTORY.. AVOID WAR. Two men, Digall and Lesinski, are responsible for a million boys spending a year and a half more in camp. Don't forget their names. The boys won't. Traffic Engineers: Can find a new problem to wrestle with in the British practice of 'hit and run' off Iceland. British planes drop depth charges on submarines, then run, leaving American Surface craft to face the music, when submarine comes to surface, nothing in sight except American boat. Result: American boat. Goat. Film officials: Recent denial of interest in Europe on market and war propaganda is proven false by Detroit Times Financial page item.. Nov. 2.. \$32,000,000 profits of last years business in Britain to be released to American film companys..25% 8 million now..a liek amount in April..etc. if they are got boys. Leave it to the Irish to call a spade a shovel, De Valera: Dublin, Nov. 2.. 'The aim of any foreign power endeavoring to come in here will be to exploit us to their own advantage..anyone who thinks otherwise is a fool. Did you get that Washington? The Irish got rid of the British after 700 years. George Washington got rid of them in two terms.. refused third term. Taken New Deal three terms to get us.. BACK INTO BRITISH EMPIRE. RECOMMENDED: Herbert Hoovers' Memoirs..Saturday Evening Post, starting last week.

ROBERT VIETIG, EX. SEC. MICHIGAN AMERICA FILM COMMITTEE

(Detroit file 65-1086)

GERALD L. K. SMITH in his radio address over station WJR, Detroit, Michigan, on December 14, 1941, made the following statement: "I am sorry that the America First Committee disbanded. It was my opinion that they should have transformed the organization immediately into a great educational moral building mechanism for the purpose of uniting America for victory. Any of the America First people who would like to attach themselves to the Committee of 1,000,000 in order that they may be associated with us in this crusade for victory and this campaign for the preservation of America, we invite you to write in for our literature and our new bulletins, which are being issued in the light of our new slogan, namely, "America United for Victory."

[REDACTED] stated that up until April, 1942, a woman would answer the telephone listed under the name of America First Committee but that since that time calls to that telephone number in Detroit, Michigan are being referred to the residence telephone of ROBERT VIERIG. b2
b7D

Inasmuch an extensive investigation is being conducted on GERALD L. K. SMITH in the Detroit Field Office, no further investigation is contemplated on the America First Committee.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

XXXXXX
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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100-4712-429 in p. 11

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

100-6882

June 24, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY--C

Dear Sir:

On the evening of January 15, 1942, as part of his regular weekly broadcast from Station WJLX, Washington, D. C., which is known as the "Victory Beacon", A. CLOYD GILL, radio commentator, made the following statement: "Some days ago we reported that certain individuals are planning to revive the America First Committee, probably under a new name. Well, a few days ago, in New York City, the former chief of the America First Committee Speakers' Bureau in Brooklyn sent out a letter to former members of the committee asking them to join with him in setting up a new outfit under the title 'American For Peace'. What do you think of that? This new leader whose name is FOREST J. HAASE, said his organization meeting would be held at the Prospect Park Y.M.C.A. and would be open only to those who are in sympathy with our cause.' The meeting was supposed to have been held on June 12. We wonder if it was held."

RECORDED & INDEXED

FILED 100-4712-43

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1942

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

This biographical sketch reflects that GILL is a native of Homer, Louisiana, and from a South Carolina family; that he was educated by private tutors and attended a military college. The sketch also reflects that GILL, after a full and active newspaper career, has in recent years specialized in producing

cc to NYC
2-1-43

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JUN 30 RECD

COPIES DESTROYED 3/27/68 A-46

factual charts, booklets, pamphlets, etc., to cover in brief form important surveys; also that these books, charts, etc., are standard and authoritative works and have been reproduced as key exhibits in the New York State Legislative Committee Reports, used in Congressional Committee Reports, and frequently quoted on the Congressional Record; that the American Legion from National Headquarters has distributed MR. GILL'S charts, etc., to each of its posts. The sketch also reflects that GILL has appeared over three thousand times on the radio in programs of his own both National and Local; that he founded the famous radio "Thirty" Club in Washington, D. C., and in 1933 he was radio director for the N.R.A. for New York City and State. His sketch reflects that he has worked closely with the intelligence services of the Army, Navy, Treasury Department, Civil Service Commission, and Police Department, who used his documents in making confidential investigations and reports.

MR. GILL claims in his biographical sketch to have National contacts who are key first persons able to furnish him with confidential data regarding Nazism, Fascism, anti-Semitism, and subversive activities. He claims that the Dies Committee of the House of Representatives furnished its investigators with published documents by MR. GILL as a basis for their field work when they organized the committee. He claims to have many influential friends and newspaper associates who got their training under him. He also sets out his background as a newspaper correspondent, which reflects that he has during the past twenty-five years worked with, in some capacity, most of the outstanding newspaper men of Washington and New York City. His record includes a statement of his past positions as editor of several local newspapers in the Southern states. Also it states that he was called to Washington by the late ARTHUR BRISBANE and was Sunday editor, city editor, special writer, and House and Senate Press Gallery representative of the Washington Times; that he became City editor of the Washington Herald after it was acquired by W. R. HEARST and was later Assistant Publisher. He relates that he was a Special Writer on the New York American and when that newspaper suspended was retained for special work on the staff of the Journal American handling policy matters for the organization. He states that three years ago he severed all relations with the HEARST newspaper with which he had been associated for twenty years to devote his full time to private business which included writing, public relations, lecturing, research and educational work. He sets

53490

Director

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY—C

Page III

out his family history which includes the names of many whom he states have made American history.

A review of the files of the Washington Field Office reflects the following information concerning A. CLOYD GILL: Reference is made to a letter written by Special Agent in Charge GUY HOTTEL to the Director dated June 11, 1940, in the case entitled [REDACTED]

sp 11 [REDACTED]
Reference is also made to Bureau letter of March 13, 1942, in the case entitled [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7C b7D
A memorandum for this file dated November 1, 1941, contains information obtained from [REDACTED] to the effect that GILL is considered very reliable and is well thought of; that he is approximately 54 years old at the present time and that he has conducted radio programs over station WMAL for the Times and the Hecht Company.

Contact with MR. GILL regarding his knowledge of the revival of the America Peace Committee under a new name has been contemplated but due to the fact that there is some question about his loyalty to the United States this matter is being presented for your consideration. The files of the Washington Field Office fail to reflect anything but unconfirmed allegations as to A. CLOYD GILL'S loyalty and it is believed that the information which GILL claims to have in his possession might prove of interest in connection with the present investigation of the America First Committee and possibly other pending investigations.

Director

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY—G

Page IV

MR. GILL is presently residing at the Hamilton Hotel in Washington, D. C., and has indicated from his radio talks as reflected above that he may be in possession of information concerning a revival of the America First activities.

It is requested that this office be advised whether or not the Bureau would approve of a contact with A. CLOYD GILL for the purpose of obtaining the aforesaid information.

Very truly yours,


S. K. McKEE

Special Agent in Charge *fm*

53492

67c

July 21, 1942

RECORDED

100-4712 -430

Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D. C.

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated June 24, 1942, wherein you requested advice concerning the advisability of interviewing A. Cloyd Gill.

From a review of the content of reference letter, it appears that A. Cloyd Gill is in a position to obtain considerable information and might possibly be in possession of important data pertaining to the activities of the America First Committee.

I wish to advise that the Bureau has no objection to your Office interviewing Mr. Gill for the purpose of obtaining any information that he might disclose concerning the activities of this organization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
A. Tamm _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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FBI MIAMI 6-23-42 1-30 PM
DIRECTOR AND SAC, CHICAGO

BOOK. AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, INTERNAL SECURITY G. INFORMANTS STATE
COMMITTEE NOT ACTIVE IN FLORIDA AT PRESENT. REPORT FOLLOWS.
DANNER

AC
WASH 1-20//1-30 OK FBI WA DC
CHICAGO OK FBI CG
DISCONNECT V

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6/23
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Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Holloman.....
Mr. McGuire.....
Mr. Mumford.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

100-4912-431
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
13 JUL 25 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

57c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-1007**

REPORT MADE AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/25/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/15/42	REPORT MADE BY b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] has been obtained and is at present retained in the files of the San Diego Field Division.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8 BTG/COL

53485

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] San Diego, California, dated March 9, 1942.

DETAILS:

AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED] was obtained from [REDACTED] and is being retained in the files of the San Diego Field Division. [REDACTED] to the time of discontinuation of activities of the Committee in San Diego.

- C L O S E D -

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-432	RECORDED b7c
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 1 - HEO 11th St. 1 - G-2 San Diego 1 - G-2 San Francisco 1 - San Diego		RECEIVED FILE JUN 27 1942	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 100-508

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 6-23-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-22, 23-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE FILE 10-19-90 [REDACTED] SP880/G			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informants state committee not active in Florida at present.

- P -

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
Miami, Florida, dated 12-3-41;
Bureau letter, dated 3-16-42.

DETAILS:

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

[REDACTED] advised Special Agent [REDACTED] on March 20, 1942, that he had been a member of the Miami America First Committee and that this organization had been dissolved officially and had decided as a group to support the war. He stated that as individuals the members of this group are backing the United States in the war program and he knows of no attempts on the part of the organization either officially or through its members to evoke a negotiated peace.

[REDACTED] was again contacted on June 22, 1942, at which time he corroborated the above information and stated there has been no indication that the Subject organization is again active in Florida and that he is quite certain that he would be advised of any activity along this line.

[REDACTED] **PAGE HUFTI**, former Regional Director in charge of the South District of the America First Committee; that he saw HUFTI last week at [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED R. S. [REDACTED]	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-433
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100-508

inquired as to whether the America First Committee was again active and received a negative reply. He further advised that he is positive that he will be contacted or will be notified in the event the Subject committee again becomes active in this area.

P E N D I N G

100-508

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE MIAMI FIELD DIVISION

Will continue its efforts to develop informants among members of the America First Committee in order that it will receive any information indicating that the Subject organization is active in the Florida area.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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☒ (b)(7)(C)

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DATE 10-19-90 BY SP8BJ/CL

100-4712-408
8-17-42

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RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. L. R. G. SMITH
CHIEF, SPECIAL WAR POLICIES UNIT

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

b7

Reference is made to your memorandum dated May 1, 1942, captioned [redacted] and relating to a conference had with [redacted] by [redacted] of your unit and Special Agent [redacted] of the New York Field Office of this Bureau on April 23, 1942, at the office of [redacted] New York City. As you will recall, the negotiation culminating in this conference began in November, 1941, at the instance of the Attorney General. [redacted]

[redacted]

Mr. T
Mr. E
Mr. C
Mr. G

[redacted]

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Coffey
H. M. P. G. G.
Base
Sandy

RECORDED 100-4712-43

946
JUL 1942

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403 f
Memorandum for Mr. L. M. C. Smith

Page Two

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D
As you are aware, of course, certain recalcitrant elements of the America First Committee have attempted to form new organizations, one of the most active of which is the "Americans for Peace" headed by Horace G. Haase, formerly affiliated with the Brooklyn Chapter of the America First Committee.

b7C
[REDACTED] Certain other groups of lesser importance have also sprung up as an aftermath of the America First Committee and these are being given attention at the present time. As you are probably well aware, by far the majority of the chapters in the America First Committee ceased their activities upon the declaration of war and since have not followed an active isolationist policy.

b7C
b7D
Another factor that should be considered is that [REDACTED] mentioned hereinbefore is of questioned reliability. Reports have been received from a confidential source that he has worked closely with the Communists and is probably a Party member. The allegation is also made that "The Hour" follows the party line closely. [REDACTED] is reported by the same source as being a party member and formerly [REDACTED]

In view of the change of circumstances since the original negotiations were entered into in this matter and the doubtful worth of the material in the possession of [REDACTED], no definite steps to consummate this review will be taken pending specific instructions from you. b2

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
4/321

10-19-90 SP8 BTJ/ccl

100-4712-435

(100-4712-435)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Chicago, Illinois**

FILE NO. **100-2293**

REPORT MADE AT Indianapolis, Indiana	DATE WHEN MADE 6-30-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-15, 6-14-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Indices of Indianapolis office do not reveal name of [REDACTED] Fort Wayne, Indiana group of America First Committee organized in January, 1941 and said to be fostering principally through efforts of Fort Wayne News Sentinel, evening newspaper; dissolved in December, 1941 and not known to be presently active. Names and backgrounds of officers and committeemen in Fort Wayne group set forth.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Birmingham, Alabama, 5-27-42.
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Indianapolis, Indiana 5-17-42.

DETAILS:

AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Chief Clerk [REDACTED] searched the indices of this field division for any information concerning [REDACTED] who was reported to have formerly resided some place in Indiana; however such indices failed to reveal the name of [REDACTED]

AT FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] on May 15, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100 - 47121 - 435	RECORDED INDEXED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Chicago 2 Indianapolis		JUL 1 1942	b7c

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[redacted] advised that the America First Committee in Fort Wayne was organized in January, 1941 and was in his opinion sponsored and fostered by the evening newspaper in Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne News Sentinel. He stated that the newspaper has had a very strong isolationist policy and naturally would be interested and sympathetic to the policies and programs of the America First Committee. b2
b7D

This informant furnished the following list of names of persons active in the organization:

Permanent Organization:

C. C. McKEE, chairman
Mrs. CLARK P. HOLMES, vice chairman
A. E. SHULL, treasurer
VERA SESSLER, executive secretary, [redacted] b7C

Advisory Committee:

Dr. EMOR L. CARTWRIGHT
Rt. Rev. THOMAS M. CONROY
Rev. PAUL F. MILLER
A. E. HOFER
M. SHERMAN PRESSLER, [redacted] b7C
TRYGVE STORM
CARL A. OSTERMAN
Mrs. C. V. HONECK
E. H. KETTER
Mrs. MAE L. RICHARDS
JAMES B. HUGHES
Rev. B. E. REEMSWIDER

In the opinion of the informant the members of the permanent organization were mere figureheads inasmuch as they were not prominent people in the community. He stated that headquarters for the committee were set up at [redacted] and that Miss VERA SESSLER did most of the work, spending her full time on the job [redacted]

CECIL C. McKEE, [redacted] listed as chairman, is [redacted] b7
Mrs. CLARK P. HOLMES listed as vice chairman is [redacted]

[redacted] A. E. SHULL listed as treasurer is [redacted]
[redacted] The committee reached the height of its activity on the case of CHARLES A. LINDBERGH's visit to Fort Wayne where he made a talk.

The following information was furnished concerning the members of the Advisory Committee. Dr. EMOR L. CARTWRIGHT is [REDACTED]

The Right Reverend THOMAS M. CONROY is [REDACTED]
Reverend BERTRAM E. FREEMSNIDER is [REDACTED]

Reverend PAUL E.
A. K. HOFER

WILLIE is [REDACTED]
is [REDACTED]

M. SHERMAN PRESSLER is [REDACTED]
TRYGVE STORM, [REDACTED]

CARL A. OSTERMAN is [REDACTED]
Mrs. C. V. HONECK is [REDACTED]

E. H. KETTLER is [REDACTED]
Mrs. MAE L. RICHARDS is [REDACTED]
JAMES B. HUGHES is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that since the national group of the America First Committee dissolved there was no indication that the group in Fort Wayne was active, that most of the people who were interested in the movement were reputable persons with strong isolationist views and nothing has ever come to his attention that after declaration of war they were any further interested in the America First Committee.

RECEIVED WITH COMMENTS BY OFFICE OF [REDACTED]

THE INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION*At South Bend, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

*At Gary, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

*At Hammond, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

*At Elkhart, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

*At Evansville, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

*At Terre Haute, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

*At Indianapolis, Indiana.

Will recontact [REDACTED] for any information have obtained subsequent to the last interview.

Will continue investigation of the America First Committee's leading members.

Will check the incorporation records of the Department to ascertain if various chapters of the America First Committee w

P E N D I N G

264-

Three rows of decorative geometric patterns, each consisting of a series of interconnected diamond shapes forming a continuous band. The patterns are arranged horizontally and stacked vertically.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552

Section 552a

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100-4712-436 in p. 5

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ALL REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JUL 8 1942

LMCS - SSB

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: America First Committee
[REDACTED]

Reference is made to your memorandum to this Unit dated June 30, 1942 wherein you suggest that it would be impracticable to thoroughly examine the material in the files of the Anti-Defamation League relative to the above organization and referred to by [REDACTED] in his conference with Mr. Bisgyer of this Unit and Special Agent [REDACTED]

I am in agreement with you on this conclusion.

This is amazing; he must have supplied "not".
Lawrence M. C. Smith
Chief, Special War Policies Unit
War Division

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FBI

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JUL 10 1942
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

100-4712-437
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 JUL 8 1942
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Kramer	.....
Mr. McGuire	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

100-9887

July 8, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2 BTJ/CL
ON 10-22-90

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

- INFORMANT.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated June 10, 1942, captioned "AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE; INTERNAL SECURITY - G" (Bureau file 100-4712), and the letter directed to the Bureau from the Washington Field Office under date of May 26, 1942, and reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Washington, D. C., May 26, 1942, both similarly entitled and forwarded therewith.

The letters and report referred to call attention to the articles entitled "Inside the America First Movement" and "Our Fascist Enemies Within" which appeared in the January and March 1942 issues of the American Mercury Magazine.

Please be advised that inquiry among the confidential informants previously used in this investigation disclosed that [redacted]



5 JUL 21 1942

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&
INDEXED

9 JUL 1942
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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100-4712-436 in p. 2, 3

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BTJ/cal

100-4712-439
NOT USED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

MILWAUKEE FILE NO. **100-2936**

REPORT MADE AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN	DATE WHEN MADE 7/6/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/13, 20/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Names of chairmen or proposed chairmen of various units of **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE** in the State of Wisconsin obtained. **[REDACTED]**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BTJ/L**

DETAILS:

On 6/13/42 the writer obtained from **[REDACTED]** a list containing the names of chairmen or proposed chairmen of local, county, and city chapters of the **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE** in the State of Wisconsin. **[REDACTED]** stated that some of the individuals are known to him personally, others are not; that none of them have ever become very active in connection with the **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE** in Wisconsin as the **COMMITTEE** was just getting organized at the time it disbanded. The list furnished is as follows:

COPIES DESTROYED 12-4-46

*Let to Milw
7/25/42*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">100-4712-440</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">IN FILE 8-943 b7c</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 5 - Bureau 3 - Chicago 3 - Milwaukee	RECORDED INDEXED <div style="text-align: right;">EX-10</div>

403 i
100-2936

W. H. HELBLE, Appleton, Wisconsin
Jay Williams, Appleton, Wisconsin

L. T. Merrill, Beloit, Wisconsin
F. R. O'Neal, Beloit, Wisconsin

J. L. Baner, Bonduel, Wisconsin

Elmer Krause, Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Miss Julia McMiller, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

C. A. Smith, [REDACTED] Eau Claire, Wisconsin

William Bernhard, Ephraim, Wisconsin

Henry Tumm, Fall Creek, Wisconsin [REDACTED]

Clyde R. Bunker, [REDACTED] Green Bay, Wisconsin

George Kissel, Hartford, Wisconsin

Robert C. Schaller, Janesville, Wisconsin

Mrs. William Riesel, [REDACTED] Kenosha, Wisconsin

F. C. Seideman, [REDACTED] Kenosha, Wisconsin

Walter Block, [REDACTED] Kenosha, Wisconsin

Henry Davis, Lake Mills, Wisconsin

Mrs. Archie East, [REDACTED] Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Herbert F. Guenzl, Merrill, Wisconsin

Dr. F. E. Sillick, Neillsville, Wisconsin

Wm. Steimann, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Sidney S. deRanitz, [REDACTED] Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Arthur Ketchian, [REDACTED] Racine, Wisconsin

Wm. Kroenke, Shawano, Wisconsin

N. P. Miller, Sheboygan, Wisconsin [REDACTED]

Chester Adams, Spencer, Wisconsin

4034

100-2936

"T. A. Rogers, [REDACTED], Stevens Point, Wisconsin

b7c

Charles E. Kading, Watertown, Wisconsin

J. P. Teeple, Waupun, Wisconsin

Walter A. Graunke, Wausau, Wisconsin

J. W. Gates, Wittenberg, Wisconsin

James H. Coleman, Woodman, Wisconsin"

Appropriate leads are being set forth [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED] to determine if there has been any activity subsequent to the dissolution of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE which would indicate that any subversive element is attempting to utilize the framework of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE for subversive purposes.

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

[REDACTED]

- PENDING -

100-2936

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

MILWAUKEE FIELD DIVISION

[REDACTED]

b7C
b7D

H. H. Halble, Appleton, Wisconsin

Jay I. Williams, Appleton, Wisconsin

L. T. Merrill, Beloit, Wisconsin

F. R. O'Neal, Beloit, Wisconsin

J. L. Banzer, Bonduel, Wisconsin

Elmer Krause, Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Miss June McMiller, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

C. A. Smith, [REDACTED] EauClaire, Wisconsin

William Bernhard, Ephraim, Wisconsin

Henry Tumm, [REDACTED] Fall Creek, Wisconsin

Clyde R. Bunker, [REDACTED] Green Bay, Wisconsin

George Kissel, Hartford, Wisconsin

Robert C. Schaller, Janesville, Wisconsin

Mrs. William Rieschel, [REDACTED] Kenosha, Wisconsin

F. C. Seideman, [REDACTED] Kenosha, Wisconsin

Walter Block, [REDACTED] Kenosha, Wisconsin

b7C

100-2936

Henry Davis, Lake Mills, Wisconsin

Mrs. Archie Last, [REDACTED], Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Herbert F. Gunesl, Merrill, Wisconsin

Dr. F. E. Sillick, Neillsville, Wisconsin

William Steinmann, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Sidney S. deRanitz, [REDACTED] Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Arthur Ketchian, [REDACTED], Racine, Wisconsin

William Kroenke, Shawano, Wisconsin

N. F. Miller, [REDACTED] Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Chester Adams, Spencer, Wisconsin

T. A. Rogers, [REDACTED] Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Charles E. Kading, Watertown, Wisconsin

J. F. Teeple, Waupun, Wisconsin

Walter A. Graunke, Wausau, Wisconsin

J. W. Gates, Wittenberg, Wisconsin

James E. Coleman, Woodman, Wisconsin

b7c

1039
RECORDED 100-4712-440

July 25, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP2BSS/CAL

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted]
dated July 6, 1942, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It is noted that undeveloped leads are set forth to conduct a
discreet investigation relative to thirty-two individuals and in the event
no derogatory information is disclosed to contact them concerning the America
First Committee. Further it will be noted that according to [redacted]

none of these persons had become very active in connection with the America
First Committee, since it was in the process of being organized at the time
of the declaration of war. Consequently, it is not believed that the leads
suggested in the reference report would be productive in relation to the
time that would necessarily have to be spent in completing the inquiry.

You should, of course, be alert in following forth any undeveloped
leads that could reasonably be assumed to establish that the former America
First Committee and its adherents are engaged in any actions that could be
considered inimical to the present war effort.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ JUL 25 1942 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
John Edgar Hoover
DIRECTOR

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Kramer _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

35 JUL 25 1942

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO

FILE NO. 100-3355

REPORT MADE AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND	DATE WHEN MADE 7-8-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-22-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Check of Baltimore indices reflects negative information regarding [REDACTED] Check of Baltimore and Maryland directories fails to reflect location of [REDACTED] in this district.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- B U C -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Birmingham, Alabama, 5/27/42.</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A check of the indices of the Baltimore Field Division fails to reflect any information regarding [REDACTED], reported as formerly residing somewhere in Maryland.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A check of telephone directories and city directories for the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland fails to reflect any information regarding this individual as having resided in this district.</p>			
<p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BTS/col</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4712-442	
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100-3355-101

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

NY FILE NO. 100-9887

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 7/11/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/15-20, 22-26/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G
<p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</p> <p>DATE 9/4/54 BY SP8 BCL/mk</p>			
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:			
<p>Material in possession of [REDACTED] tending to identify subversive personnel and activities and foreign support of America First Committee, N.Y.C. prior to its official dissolution, set forth herein, together with supplementary background information. Such material tends to prove support of, or connection with the America First Committee by such known or alleged subversive organizations as the German-American Bund, Christian Front, Silver Shirts, Women United, Mothers' organizations, Christian Mobilizers, American Destiny Party, Paul Revere Sentinels, League for Institutional Government, Crusaders for Americanism, Citizens Protective League, Protestant War Veterans, American Nationalist Party, Committee for Preservation of America, and such individuals as LAWRENCE DENNIS, WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY, CHARLES B. HUDSON, JOSEPH E. MC WILLIAMS, COURT ASHER, E. J. GARNER, JOHN GREIS, JOHN B. SNOW, MERWIN K. HART, EDWARD JAMES SMITH, PATER EDWARD LODGE CURRAN, GEORGE DEATHERAGE, F. GUT JUNNEMANN, WILLIAM KULLGREN, GEORGE A. VAN NODALL, JAMES MC GEE, GEORGE REIPER, AUGUST KLAPPROTT and LEON DE ARIAN.</p>			
- P -			
REFERENCE:			
<p>Bureau letters to New York dated April 25, 1942, and May 14, 1942 (Bureau file 100-4712).</p> <p>Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 13, 1942, at New York, N. Y.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED [Signature]		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>3 - Bureau 100-4712</p> <p>2 - Chicago</p> <p>1 - [REDACTED]</p> <p>1 - New York</p>		<p>100-4712-443</p> <p>18 JUL 13 1942</p>	

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DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY

This report is composed wholly of information abstracted from material in the possession of [REDACTED] which tends to identify subversive personnel and activities and foreign support of the America First Committee prior to its official dissolution on December 12, 1941. Portions of this material had previously been furnished to [REDACTED] for the purpose of exposing such individuals, organizations, and activities [REDACTED], which plan, however, was abandoned following the entrance of the United States into the present war and the official dissolution of the America First Committee on December 12, 1941.

[REDACTED] made available to agent a copy of a summary report on the America First Committee which was apparently written about October 1941, and which reads as follows:

"The America First Committee was organized in 1940, in Chicago, Illinois. The original members were:

GENERAL ROBERT E. WOOD - Chairman
 JANET AYER FAIRBANK - Vice Chairman
 HANFORD MC NIDER - Vice Chairman (former National Commander of American Legion and former Minister to Canada)
 R. DOUGLAS STUART, Jr. - Director
 J. SANFORD OTIS - Treasurer
 CHESTER BOWLES
 ANTON J. CARLSON - (University of Chicago)
 WILLIAM R. CASTLE - (Former United States Ambassador to Japan)
 KATHRYN LEWIS - (Labor union executive)
 Senator BENNETT C. CLARK
 IRVING S. COBB
 JOHN T. FLYNN
 LILLIAN GISH - (actress)
 W. E. HAMMACKER - (Methodist Bishop)
 GENERAL F. B. HAMMONS
 JAY C. HOEMEL - (Packer)
 GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON
 CLAY JUDSON
 WILLIAM KRONER
 ALICE ROOSEVELT LONGWORTH
 FRANK LONDON - (former Governor of Illinois)
 Mrs. JOHN P. MARQUAND
 KAY MC KAY

STERLING MORTON
KATHLEEN NORRIS
AMOS R. E. PINCHOT
FLORENCE P. ROLN
MAJOR A. J. WILLIAMS
Mrs. BURTON E. WHEELER
Dr. GEORGE H. WHIPPLE
LOUIS J. TABER - (Master of National Grange)
E. MYERSON, Jr. - (Inland Steel Company)

"The Committee has headquarters on the 18th floor in the Board of Trade Building, 141 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. Rent is \$4,825 annually and there are forty employees according to latest reports. The Committee has received \$231,000 and has spent \$207,000. Its advertising expenses are \$71,000, pamphlets are \$32,000, and general expenses are \$60,000. The office has under it 800 to 850 local chapters with about 900,000 members.

"The New York Chapter of the Committee is the second largest. Headquarters are at 515 Madison Avenue, with five rooms on the eleventh floor, one room on the ninth floor, and one room on the twelfth floor. Rent is approximately \$170 monthly. Branch offices at 3 East 47th Street, (women's division) and at 1050 Second Avenue (veteran's and laborer's division). The Chapter opened on January 27, 1941, under the chairmanship of JOHN T. FLYNN, with EDWIN S. WEBSTER, Jr. as Executive Chairman. While WEBSTER is ostensibly the banking source behind the America First Committee, Mrs. COURTLAND D. BARNES put up the money for the New York Chapter. She is niece of the publisher of the New York Daily News.

"There are six to eight employees at 515 Madison Avenue (payroll \$200) and about seventy volunteer workers. The chapter has received about \$30,000 and has spent \$26,000. It claims 41,000 members.

"The New York Chapter has under it eighteen smaller chapters and twenty-two separate units. There is a separate chapter in each borough and the general Committee operates about twenty-five branch offices in various stores throughout the metropolitan district. The actual work consists of rallies, meetings, addresses, telephone calls, and organized tours to Washington, D. C. where time is spent in lobbying. About twenty meetings are held weekly in the New York City area in addition to about thirty street corner meetings. The usual places for the latter are the corner of 42nd Street and 5th Avenue; Pershing Square; 59th Street and Lexington Avenue; and 49th Street and 5th Avenue. There are usually three speakers. The speeches are brief and they move away after about one hour. About two hundred people are usually in attendance.

"During four months 185 meetings were held and 391 addresses were given in New York City. The most frequent speakers at such meetings are the following individuals:

PHILIP LAFOLLOTTE
MICHAEL STRANGE
REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON FISH
SENATOR DAVID WALSH
Dr. HENRY NOBLE MC CRACKEN
Professor EDWARD REISNER
KATHLEEN MORRIS

"The New York Chapter publishes a weekly bulletin of which JOHN L. SPRINGER is editor. "The Bulletin" is mailed to members at 5¢ per issue. Mr. SPRINGER claims a circulation of 10,000. The names which most frequently appear in "The Bulletin" with favorable comment are:

"Representatives HARRY SANTHOFF, DEWEY, CARL CURTIS, KARL E. MUNDT, FRANK OSWERS, HARNESS, HILL, LUDLOW; and Senators CLARK, WHEELER, NYE, TOBEY, WAYLAND BROOKS, SHIPSTEAD, COPPER, TAFT, W. GEORGE, IGOR SIKORSKY, JOHN CUDAHY, GEORGE N. PEEK; BARON VON MANGEL writes for "The Bulletin".

"In all of New York City there are three hundred volunteer workers and forty to sixty paid workers.

"Of the chapters in the New York Area the one in Brooklyn is the most active. WILLIAM LEONARD is chairman of that chapter. The chapter has its main office at 44 Court Street, and has about one hundred volunteer workers and offices have been opened in each congressional district. The members are mostly Irish and Italians, and Father Coughlin and Father Curran followers. Attendance at meetings has been as much as 1500 persons, with an equal number waiting on the street. America First Committee Units have been formed in Flushing, Bayside, Woodside, Sunnyside, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Queens Village, Bellrose, Bellaire and Corona, Long Island. America First Committee Chapters have also been formed in Honolulu, Nome and Juneau, Alaska; and Diablo Heights, Canal Zone.

"At America First Committee meetings in Madison Square Garden, New York City, as many as 22,000 people have been present. The Committee is weak in Washington, D. C. and generally in the South. The largest membership comes from the Middle West where also most of the twelve America First Committee Bulletins are published. The national membership of the Committee was estimated by JOHN L. SPRINGER to be ten million. General WOOD is reported to have stated to a co-worker that it amounts to fifteen million. The New York metropolitan membership on April 22, 1941, was 25,000, and on June 7, 1941, it was 76,471.

"The following papers and publications are in favor of the America First Committee or its foreign policy:

New York Daily News
Scribner's Commentator
Pelley's Publications
Minnesota Beacon
Flanders Hall Publication
Chicago Tribune
The Herald (Geneva Publishing Company)
America in Danger (CHARLES HUDSON)
The Defender (Reverend G. WINROD)
Beacon Light
Today's Challenge (American Fellowship Forum)
New York Journal-American
The Individualist
The American Citizen
Columbia News Service

"According to EDWIN S. WEBSTER, Jr. Metropolitan New York City has about 200,000 members, while Chicago has about 300,000 members. After the Manhattan Center Rally, the New York membership increased 2500 within two weeks. Mr. WEBSTER estimated that 45 to 50 people work daily at 515 Madison Avenue, New York City, and that there are 65 chapters in New York, Long Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut. In Mr. WEBSTER's words, "The New York Chapter runs on a shoestring and can hardly balance its budget."

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670 [REDACTED] made available to Agent a copy of a report dated April 30, 1941, and entitled "Subversive Newspapers and Periodicals Endorsing and Supporting America First Committee and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh". This report reads as follows:

"In AMERICA, the Ukrainian newspaper published three times weekly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a full account of Lindbergh's speech is made - the issue is April 26, 1941. This newspaper is one of the chief organs of the Ukrainian Fascists. Their activities are well known to the United States Government and members of their staff have many times been interrogated by the F.B.I. and United States Immigration Officials. The comment in this newspaper reads as follows:

'On April 23, Colonel Lindbergh addressed a great meeting in New York; this time as spokesman for the organization America First Committee which is hostile to America's entry into European and Asiatic wars Even his adversaries must admit that, as a world traveler, student of relations prevailing in various countries, and as an expert flyer, he speaks with knowledge and understanding of things.'

"In SVOBODA, the other Ukrainian Fascist newspaper, which is published in Jersey City, New Jersey and edited by LUKE MYSHUKA, head man of the Ukrainian Fascists in America, the following statement appeared in the issue of April 25, 1941:

'Lindbergh continues to be against the war and aid to England:

'Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh spoke at a great mass meeting at Manhattan Center in New York City. He stated that England tries once again to entice America to enter the war and that she expects to obtain from America not only help in products; but also an expeditionary army. England must lose the war, Lindbergh said. Even America's aid won't help her to win it; but it would be a tragedy if the British Empire fell. He added that the American Government would be subjected to sharp criticism for its efforts to push America into the war. The majority doesn't want it.'

"Of course this newspaper and its people have been under careful surveillance by the Government and they shied clear of editorial comment. But the manner in which the report is written gives benefit and accent to favor Lindbergh.

"The FREE AMERICAN which is the organ of the German-American Bund, on April 24, 1941, page four, made the following comment: (It was printed in German and the following is a translation.)

'Those who sacrifice themselves take a risk in order to convey to the people a true picture of the war situation and are being insulted by the ignorant. Look at the Lindbergh case, a man who has been celebrated as a hero for years is now being condemned by the same powerful clique who want to break the neck of fighting Germanism.

'Father Coughlin and many other freedom loving good citizens, on orders of the powerful, invisible rulers, had to run the gauntlet of our stupid era.'

"In the FREE AMERICAN of April 17, 1941, on page twelve, an item appears in the form of a letter to the editor. It is entitled 'Lindbergh For President'. After castigating England the letter closes as follows:

'Every American should read Lindbergh's letter in COLLIERS. It will open their eyes. He is a real American and too bad that he isn't our President now. We wouldn't be having all of the war hysteria. Lets have less propaganda and more of Mr. and Mrs. Lindbergh. They are true Americans.'

"In THE TABLET, mouthpiece of Father EDWARD LODGE CURRAN and Father EDWARD BROPHY, another well known COUGHLIN supporter, April 19, 1941, issue, page six, announced the address to be given by Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH.

at Manhattan Center, New York City. The article also contains various statements by JOHN T. FLYNN, Executive Chairman of the America First Committee. THE TABLET had publicized all of the peace meetings and is one of the strong proponents of the isolationist groups in America. On page eight there are letters to the editor telling about the inspired meeting of WOMEN UNITED which was held at Carnegie Hall. On page nine they list the war propaganda films and it is to be noted that all of the films mentioned are anti-Nazi.

"In SOCIAL JUSTICE of April 28, 1941, the back page is devoted to a tirade against Britain. Reference is made to Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH's speech of April 17 and a few quotes are inserted. An endorsement of LINDBERGH's position is also given. In addition reference is also made to the America First Committee and Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH with a general endorsement of both in the SOCIAL JUSTICE of April 14, 1942.

"In the ROLL CALL, the new magazine put out by WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY, issue of April 14, 1941, Volume I, Number 14, carries an article extolling the virtues of LINDBERGH, FORD, MOSELEY, and a few others. They are called 'The True Leaders of a Renovated and Purged America'. The article appears on page five. The same magazine in its issue of January 11, 1941, has an endorsement of the America First Committee.

"One of the most viciously anti-Semitic, pro-German newspapers is PUBLICITY, published in Wichita, Kansas, by E. J. GARNER. Some of its contributors are such well known Fascists as EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE. On page four of the February 27, 1941, issue, an editorial states:

'Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, by his courageous stand against 1776 may prove to be "this nation's man on a white horse", just the answer to the question of who shall ride rough shod into the nation's capital in 1944. He would become another "Honest Abe" — the long looked for Lincoln of this day and age — an emancipator of Jewocratic slaves of the 20th Century.'

"In the DEFENDER, the magazine published by that arch-Fascist GERALD B. WINROD, the April 1941 issue states on page sixteen the following:

'Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh is one of the men, prominent in the present war controversy, who has shown sufficient capacity to advocate policies adopted to conditions as they are — rather than what he might wish them to be.'

"An extremely important point to bear in mind is that it seems, from various articles, that Rome anticipated LINDBERGH's actions and knew beforehand that he intended forming a new policy which would act as a spearhead for their objectives.

"On August 4, 1940, the newspaper IL MESSAGGERO reported from New York that Colonel LINDBERGH was forming a party of True Americans and praised him for mobilizing isolationist tendencies in the country. The article was written by ENGELO FLAVIO GUIDO, who is the Fascist spokesman for Italians in America. The above was reported in the New York Times of August 5, 1940, on page four.

"In the FREE AMERICAN of May 1, 1941, the headline quotes Colonel LINDBERGH. It is noted that in the last paragraph of the editorial appearing on the first page the readers are asked to join the America First Committee and participate in its work. The same issue was noted to carry a complete transcription of LINDBERGH's speech made at Manhattan Center, made in both English and German.

"In PELLEY's ROLL CALL of April 28, 1941, Volume 1, #16, a complete article endorsing LINDBERGH's speech and the America First Committee is contained."

b2
b7D [REDACTED] made available to Agent a copy of a summary memorandum pertaining to the political aspects of the America First Committee. This memorandum, which is not dated, was apparently prepared in the fall of 1941 and reads as follows:

"Contrary to the announcement which America First Committee made yesterday that it will support political candidates for the first time, there exists considerable evidence which indicates that America First took this step some time ago. This appears to be an effort to conceal its intention of becoming a political party. Thus it avoids the necessity for disclosing information as to financial support, etc. which is required under our laws.

"PHILIP LA FOLLETTE, ex-Governor of Wisconsin, speaking before 200 Chapter Chairmen and delegates on November 1, 1941, in Washington, D. C., stated the following:

'..... We of the American Party must go forward as an organized group to fight the battle for the plain people of America. . . . The first round will come in the 1942 elections.'

"Curiously enough SOCIAL JUSTICE was one of the few papers which reprinted the resolution adopted at this meeting. It was: 'We, the chairmen and delegates of 119 chapters of the America First Committee, representing millions of American citizens from coast to coast, from North to South, do individually pledge ourselves to work and vote in the 1942 Primaries and General Election for every member of the Senate and House of Representatives, irrespective of party, who votes to retain the provisions of the present neutrality act which prohibits the entry of American ships into combat areas or belligerent ports. (November 24, 1941)

"It is also of interest to note the interpretation which SOCIAL JUSTICE placed on LA FOLLETTE's reference to an 'American Party'. In the same article in which the resolution is reprinted SOCIAL JUSTICE states:

'The delegates also had heard former Governor PHILIP LA FOLLETTE of Wisconsin promise that the "American Party" would band together in 1942 to prevent the "War Party" from establishing a Fascist dictatorship in America.'

"At an America First Committee mass meeting on November 5, 1941, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, SAMUEL P. PETTINGILL, former Congressman, promised that the 'American Party' would take care of the 'traitors' responsible for putting the British Empire ahead of the United States. This emphasis on the 'American Party' is not a casual allusion, but is a preview of the road along which America First Committee is traveling.

"It is worth remembering that the New York Daily News was the first to suggest in an editorial on October 27, 1941, that an America First Party be formed.

"As early as July 1941, the America First Committee launched its propaganda for converting its geographical units into Congressional District Clubs. In a letter to members it stated that 'organization by congressional districts is now very necessary.' Units were established for the 16th Congressional District in Manhattan, and in certain sections in Philadelphia. It is reported that CHRISTIAN FRONTER, Mrs. GALLAGHER, heads one of the Philadelphia units. She was an honorary guest of the Kyffhauser Bund in 1939, and is very active in the 'Mothers and Daughters of Pennsylvania' organization.

"In Queens, New York City, members of the America First Committee are compelled to state their congressional district on application blanks, and the Brooklyn Chapter is now busily engaged in compiling membership lists according to congressional districts. Mr. WILLIAM T. LEONARD, head of the Brooklyn Chapter, has told friends that he intends to run for Congress. It is a question of whether he will be able to secure a nomination from either of the two major parties, but if past performances of the America First Committee are any clue, failure to secure an endorsement will not prevent Mr. LEONARD from running. A special political organization will be set up for that purpose. This was done in the recent election where several minor candidates throughout the country, with the active cooperation of important individuals in America First Committee, established independent political clubs for the express purpose of running in the election. Typical of the America First Committee effort to hide its interest in political campaigns is the manner in which it supported Senator JOSEPH B. HARRINGTON who ran in the special congressional election in Massachusetts. On November 17, he was given an opportunity to appear

at an America First Committee rally at Lawrence, Massachusetts. By this device it was made clear to the America Firsters whom they were expected to support.

"It is reported that HENRY VANDER VELDE, who ran for Municipal Council in New York City on a 'Return Manhattan to the Dutch' program, is scheduled to become chairman of the new America First Committee Chapter which is being opened in Washington Heights, New York.

"There is evidence that the America First Committee may officially support the movement for impeaching the President if it becomes strong enough by 1942. The cry heard at the Madison Square Garden rally of the America First Committee on October 30, 1941, for impeachment is but a faint echo of the rumbling that has been going on inside America First Committee. Wild applause greeted LA FOLLETTE at the Indianapolis Rally when he said that if he were in Congress he would impeach the President. Impeachment was also advocated by FRANK COLLINS, editor of the San Marino Tribune, at an America First Committee Rally at Pasadena, California, on October 10, 1941. Through the persistent 'Bulletins' issued by NORMAN H. WILSON and MARGARET MORTON, active members of the Yonkers, New York America First Committee, unanimously endorsed the impeachment idea.

"In one form or another, nearly all of the lunatic fringe groups which have swamped the America First Committee have given probability or endorsement to the idea. The following is a list of some of these organizations or publications:

CHRISTIAN FRONT
 SOCIAL JUSTICE
 SCRIBNER'S COMMENTATOR
 NATIONAL LEGION OF MOTHERS
 THE AMERICA WAY (JOHN GEIS)
 PATRIOTS OF THE REPUBLIC (E. J. GARNER)
 THE BROOM (LEON DA ARYAN)
 AMERICA IN DANGER (CHARLES B. HUDSON)
 UNITED WAR VETERANS (HARRY YOUNG)
 X-RAY (COURT ASHER)
 ROLL CALL (WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY)
 BEACON LIGHT (WILLIAM KULLGREN)
 THE AMERICAN DIGEST (formerly SOCIAL JUSTICE DIGEST)

"Indicative of the way in which the America First Committee is beginning to adopt the German interpretation of events is JOHN T. FLYNN's

statement at the America First Committee Rally on November 17, 1941, at Lawrence, Massachusetts. FLYNN charged that the President secured revision of the Neutrality Act by lobbying and bribery. A few days prior to this most of the metropolitan newspapers reported that the German press made the same accusation in front page stories."

A report [REDACTED] dated February 20, 1941, reported a joint meeting of the America First Committee and the Keep America Out of War Congress at Mecca Temple, New York City. Speakers at the meeting were JOHN T. FLYNN, DOROTHY DUNBAR BRUMLEY, Senator NYE, NORMAN THOMAS, and Senator WHEELER. Although all the speakers stressed their belief in Democracy and democratic ideas, this meeting was characterized by the presence of pro-Fascists, pro-Nazis, and radical leftist groups, such as:

THE CHRISTIAN MOBILIZERS
THE AMERICAN DESTINY PARTY
CHRISTIAN FRONT
PAUL REVERE SENTINELS
TROTSKYITES

All types of literature was distributed by these groups. Notorious anti-Semites present were the following:

JOSEPH McWILLIAMS
JOHN CASSIDY
JAMES O'KELLEY
LAMBERT FAIRCHILD
MACKLIN BOETTGER
Reverend HERBERT LEWIS
JOHN GEIS
GEORGE BOYAN
PAUL VINCENT LUCENTI
Mrs. FOX
Mrs. EIBACH
Mr. SHERIDAN
Mr. GLEASON
DAN HARGAN
THOMAS FARRELL
THOMAS MALONEY
Mr. and Mrs. VAN NOSDALL
Mr. WEIR (the printer)

About \$2,000 was collected at this meeting.

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A report of [REDACTED] dated April 23, 1941, set forth information concerning the America First Committee meeting at Madison Center, New York City. It was reported that the following persons who were described as pro-Nazi or pro-Fascist were present at such meeting:

- AUGUST KLAPPROOT - Bund leader of long standing and then out on bail on conviction for incitement to hate - Vice-President of Bund Publishing Concern.
- GUSTAVE ELMER - Treasurer of Bund
- LAWRENCE DENNIS - Outstanding American Fascist of the American Fellowship Forum, and editor of Weekly Foreign Letters publication.
- JOHN SNOW - Chairman of the League for Constitutional Government - a white collar pro-Fascist group.
- GEORGE A. VAN NOSDALL - Former president of Crusaders for Americanism, notorious anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi organization; and former Bund member.
- EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE - Intimate with Bund members; arranged Klan meetings at Bund Camp Nordland; was leader of Klan; anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi.
- Mrs. LENORA SCHUYLER - (On platform) Member of Allied Patriotic Society and supporter of various pro-Nazi affiliates; anti-Semitic; anti-British; and has attended meetings of Crusaders for Americanism; Christian Mobilizers, etc.
- MAX KALCHER - Member of the Bund; salesman of Social Justice and the Free American.
- Mrs. IDA MAE COOPER - Prominently connected with Paul Revere Sentinels and intimate friend of Mrs. LENORA SCHUYLER.
- F. GUY JUNNEMANN - Spy for JAMES TRUE and GEORGE DEATHERAGE; contact man for Christian Mobilizers.

THOMAS FARRELL - An associate of EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE.

EDWARD BANTA - Witness before Dies Committee; formerly in Communist Party, now employed by American Women Against Communism, a Fascist front organization.

EVANGELINE ORDING - Mistress of VAN NOSDALL and extremely anti-Semitic.

JAMES STEWART - Speaker for Christian Mobilizers and viciously anti-British, pro-Fascist.

GEORGE REIPER - Mobilizer worker and associated with Fascist groups.

DANIEL HORGAN - Bodyguard for JOSEPH McWILLIAMS.

JAMES MCGEE - Christian Front propagandist.

GEORGE ROETH - Treasurer of Christian Mobilizers

EDWARD BURKE - Speaker and organizer for Christian Mobilizers

Reverend HERBERT LEWIS - Bund and Fascist Front member.

WEIR - Member of and printer for the Christian Mobilizer.

GEORGE F. A. BOYAN - Member of the Iron Guard in U.S.A. - violent anti-British, anti-Semitic, and strong Roumanian Fascist.

CHARLES McLAIN - Song leader who lead the singing and who advertised himself as President of the "Society for the Preservation of Patriotic and Sacred Music," 1425 Broadway, N.Y.C. He formerly led music at meetings of the Committee for the Preservation of America, a pro-Coughlin, Fascist outfit which met at Carnegie Hall, and then at the Brown House, New York City, VAN HOLT, ex-Bund leader, maintains rooms there.

"There were representatives of the following anti-Semitic, pro-Fascist, or pro-Nazi organizations present:

CHRISTIAN FRONT
CHRISTIAN MOBILIZERS
AMERICAN DESTINY PARTY
CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE
ALLIED PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES
PROTESTANT WAR VETERANS
AMERICAN NATIONALIST PARTY
COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA
GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND
GERMAN-AMERICAN BUSINESS LEAGUE
GERMAN-AMERICAN VOCATIONAL LEAGUE
AMERICAN PATRIOTS, INC.
FLYING SQUADRONS FOR AMERICANISM
PAUL REVERE SENTINELS
CRUSADERS FOR AMERICANISM
WOMEN UNITED
NO FOREIGN WARS COMMITTEE

"SOCIAL JUSTICE was sold and SCRIBNER'S COMMENTATOR was distributed free and also distributed were ads for meeting of the American Destiny Party at Astoria, Long Island, on April 24, 1941.

"Speakers for the above meeting were Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH; Senator DAVID I. WALSH; KATHLEEN NORRIS; JOHN T. FLYNN, chairman."

Concerning foreign support of the America First Committee, [redacted] referred to the article appearing in the May 1, 1941, issue of "Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter" or "The Free American", which was the official organ of the German-American Bund. The issue reprinted in its entirety Lindbergh's speech and in an article by the editor urged readers to support and join the America First Committee. b2
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[redacted] indicated that in the May 8, 1941 issue of the above publication on the front page there was reproduced a letter to the editor from JOHN T. FLYNN, Chairman of the New York Chapter of the America First Committee. Such letter stated that not only does the America First Committee ignore soliciting the membership of the readers of such publication or members of the German-American Bund, but states that such individuals are not eligible for membership in the America First Committee.

Under date of May 5, 1941, [redacted] reported that the America First Committee was opening offices in each congressional district. It was stated that membership is enormous and the bulk of it is Irish and Italian. The day following the Lindbergh speech it was reported that the

New York Chapter increased its membership by 9,000. It was further stated that the Brooklyn Chapter is almost solely a Father Coughlin and Father Curran outfit. Many of the new members advised that they did not even desire the literature simply stating that they had worked for Father Coughlin.

Under date of May 13, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that the Brooklyn Chapter of the America First Committee was reported to have been working among the workers of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, particularly those of the American Federation of Labor. b2
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A report [REDACTED] dated May 23, 1941, concerning the Madison Square Garden Rally of subject organization held on that day, reported the following named Fascists and pro-Nazis present at such meeting:

GEORGE GUNNING
Miss BUTLER (Paul Revere Sentinel)
JOHN GEIS
WEIR (the printer)
Dr. ULRICH
D. MARQUARD
DAN HORGAN
MARY REILLY
JOSEPH MC WILLIAMS
LAWRENCE DENNIS

Among those on the platform at the rally were the following:

Mrs. LENORA SCHUYLER
Mrs. HERRICK of Women United
OSWALD GARRISON DILLARD
Mrs. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, Jr.
Mrs. TAFT,
Mrs. WHEELER
AMOS R. E. PINCHAT

It was reported that Social Justice and the Call (Socialist Party newspaper) were on sale and copies of the March and April 1941 issues of Scribner's Commentator were distributed free. However, it should be noted that JOHN T. FLYNN, chairman, in his address repudiated the support of the Bund, the Fascists, and the Communists, and denounced McWILLIAMS who was present. The audience's feelings toward McWILLIAMS and FLYNN were divided. The other speakers at the meeting were the following:

Senator BURTON K. WHEELER
NORMAN THOMAS
Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH

It was indicated in the report that a banner of "The Copperhead Club of Westchester" was held aloft at the meeting.

[REDACTED] report dated June 3, 1941, indicated that EDWIN S. WEBSTER, Jr. is the ostensible banking source behind the America First Committee, New York City. However, it was Mrs. COURTLAND B. BARNES who put up the cash for the New York Chapter, and WEBSTER is simply acting as a financial friend. It was pointed out that before Mrs. BARNES's marriage she has been KATRINA McCORMICK, daughter of MEDILL McCORMICK; and that she is the niece of ROBERT MADILL PATTERSON, publisher of the New York Daily News. This fact accounts for the strong support the America First Committee has received from the New York Daily News.

Informant's report received at a later date indicated that in the June 30, 1941 issue of Social Justice, in the Letters to the Editor section on page 14, the following quoted letter appeared:

"Of course we American Firsters welcome you Coughlin Folk into our great movement; you are the backbone of the organization!

Do not permit any troublemakers to tell you otherwise. We must not and will not be divided at this most critical time in our nation's history. Back to England with these pro-British; the United States is for Americans."

This letter was signed with the initials D.K.D., Kahoka, Mo.

[REDACTED] report dated July 11, 1941, and referring to the Brooklyn Chapter of subject organization, stated that there had been a break between the America First Committee and the Christian Front in New York City. The break supposedly occurred with the liberal element of the America First Committee or General WOOD and JOHN T. FLYNN. The Christian Fronters were stated as being bent upon reprisals and their principal objective is organization of all the America First Committee elements with the exception of the liberal element referred to. It was stated that they planned a crusade in the name of Christianity and against Russia.

Material [REDACTED] included an issue of "News from the Non-Sectarian, anti-Nazi League of 20 West 47th Street, New York City" which was dated July 16, 1941. The publication is quoted as follows:

"America First Committee accused of open page propaganda as first shot in campaign for Hitler's peace propaganda:

"An editorial attacking the 'refugee Germans and their fellow racial and religious brethren' in the current issue of the America First Bulletin was spotlighted yesterday by the Non-Sectarian, anti-Nazi League which accused the America First Committee of indulging in 'open Nazi propaganda' as the first shot in a campaign to propagandize for Hitler's forthcoming peace proposals.

"Mayor LaGuardia recently warned of such proposals soon to be presented by 'representatives of a peace movement' here."

In a wire signed by Professor JAMES H. SHELDON of the Non-Sectarian anti-Nazi League, and sent to General ROBERT E. WOOD, such league accused the America First Committee through the New York Chapter, of using the Hitler line to spread discord in American Ranks. The wire is as follows:

"Are you in accord with the sentiments expressed in the editorial entitled 'Peace' appearing in the July issue of the Bulletin, published by the New York Chapter of the America First Committee? In the editorial which asks for a negotiated peace, the passage occurs, 'If Hitler were to agree to restore the independence of Norway, Denmark, Holland, France, even Poland, while these people in America (the foreign groups) might be appeased there would still be a powerful group - the most powerful of all - the refugee Germans and their fellow racial and religious brethren who would protest. Don't you feel that this libel against the Jews (who happen, incidentally, not to be united in any manner for or against any peace proposals) and other loyal Americans follows the Hitler line in order to arouse discord in American Ranks?

"We feel that your Committee has indulged in open Nazi propaganda as the first shot in a campaign to propagandize for Hitler's forthcoming peace proposals. While the America First Committee is, of course, entitled to propagandize for or against such a peace, it can hardly claim to be American when it uses the Hitler type of propaganda which tries to convince the public that all opposition is Jewish or is motivated by other than patriotic motives. This line constantly recurs in the propaganda emanating from Nazi sources, is it a coincidence that it has cropped up again now in an America First Committee editorial?

"JOHN T. FLYNN, New York chairman of your committee, told us on the phone today that he backed up the editorial in question and the sentiments

expressed therein. Do you stand ready to use the Nazi inspired Jewish smear upon all Americans who do not trust in the sincerity of Hitler's peace proposals?"

Also published by the Non-Sectarian, anti-Nazi League of New York City, and undated, is a pamphlet entitled "The America First Committee - The Nazi Transmission Belt". Such publication attempts to show the affiliation and connection between the America First Committee and such organizations and individuals as The Christian Front, The Paul Revere Sentinels, JOSEPH McWILLIAMS and the American Destiny Party, or Christian Mobilizers, German-American National Alliance and OLOV TIETZOV, JOHN B. SNOW, JAMES TRUE, DONALD SHEA of the National Gentile League, EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE and the Protestant War Veterans, Colonel E. N. SANTWARY and the American Christian Defenders, and also the German-American Bund.

In connection with possible Nazi connections of subject organization the New York Post, on July 25, 1941, printed the following article:

"Until Uncle Sam closed it, the German Library of Information, 17 Battery Place, New York City, had been flooding NEWTON DILLAWAY, Reading, Massachusetts writer, with propaganda although he did not ask for it. The envelope always had been addressed SILLAWAY. Mr. DILLAWAY thought it a coincidence, at least, when the America First Committee recently began sending him unsolicited propaganda and also addressed him as SILLAWAY."

The above article also included photographs of the SILLAWAY envelopes bearing return addresses of both agencies mentioned.

Under date of August 1, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that JAMES O'KELLEY of the Paul Revere Sentinels had called at the America First Committee headquarters, Queens, New York Chapter, and was overheard telling Mr. LOCKWOOD that the Sentinels had decided that it was best to in no way conflict with the meetings or work of the America First Committee, however, the Sentinels would still maintain offices at the Murray Hill Hotel, New York City.

On August 16, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that every New York City office of the America First Committee seems to have one or two rabid Christian Fronters therein. It was believed that FLINN was honestly trying to overcome this, and that he had loyal supporters who are strict isolationists and who are working for no war on foreign soil and against the Administration, although they "soft pedal" their efforts in the latter line. FLINN was reported as stating at a meeting that he was sick of

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"having Chicago run things, and that soon he hopes to have the New York City office in charge of publicity. This report stated that the New York membership lists were huge, filling enormous files and taking in every city, town or hamlet wherever there is a voting poll."

[REDACTED] report of August 19, 1941, stated that the America First Committee is split into three factions: b2
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- 1 - The Christian Fronters
- 2 - The Flynn adherents (a new political party - more or less rational)
- 3 - The Nazis of Jewish origin, or honorary Aryans.

While no open rivalry is apparent, each faction is striving for dictatorship within the America First Committee. It was stated in the report that General WOOD's inner beliefs can hardly be ascertained unless they are fully depicted by his utterances which lean dangerously to the "right." It would hardly be fair to indict a man of JULIUS ROSENWALD's stature without something concrete, but nevertheless, he was a close friend of General WOOD in business and otherwise.

[REDACTED] report concerning the mass meeting of the America First Committee at Carnegie Hall on August 20, 1941, it is reported that an estimated ten thousand people inside and outside the hall heard the speeches of JOHN T. FLYNN, Ex-Governor PHILIP LA FOLLETTE, MICHAEL STRANGE, and President McCRACKEN. b2
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The above report stated that the difference in the character of the individuals in the audience was noticeable in that most of the well known Fascists were absent. The audience represented the Catholic Coughlinites and the Whig Machine which the America First Committee is striving to create.

The same report stated that Women United is using the mailing lists of both the America First Committee and the Committee for No Foreign Wars; that though Women United have no money in their own treasury they were able to advise many members to stop worrying about expenses for the last trip to Washington as the organization would pay for these. It is believed that this expense money came from the America First Committee.

In connection with Women United, on August 23, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that Mrs. SETH MILLIKEN who holds a key position in the America First Committee, made a loan of \$1500 to Women United and that the same amount was listed to Mrs. GRANT SIDMONS who headed the Greenwich, Connecticut Chapter of the America First Committee. This report stated that whenever b2
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Women United have an organized trip to Washington the tickets are available at all the America First Committee offices though the two organizations will not admit any connection.

On August 23, 1941, it was also reported that at the Brooklyn America First Committee Chapter, 44 Court Street, Brooklyn, New York, about every third name on the membership list is Italian. It was stated that many joiners can not sign their names, being illiterate; and that a few are decidedly German, many admitting that they are aliens. It was reported that the bulk of this Chapter are Coughlinites.

Under date of September 9, 1941, [redacted] reported that the America First Committee has in its offices large stocks of franked literature involving Mrs. LUNDEEN's answer to WINCHELL. These are not mailed out by the America First Committee under its own letterhead, but are given to members with the request to distribute them widely. Mrs. HELLER has mailed over 1000 and someone sits at a desk there all day mailing out from 20 to 30 at a time. Members come in and pick up this material for mailing out themselves. b2 b7D

[redacted] report noted that the September 15, 1941, issue of Social Justice in a letter to the editor on page sixteen, entitled "It's Up To You", urges readers of Social Justice to join and support the America First Committee. b2 b7D

[redacted] material also included a memorandum by ARTHUR J. GOLDSMITH, 100 East 50th Street, New York City, entitled "Who is America First?" Such memorandum lists the national and New York officers of the organization; and portions of this memorandum are as follows:

"Whose Battle is America First Fighting?"

"A short wave radio broadcast from Berlin on January 22, 1941, is as follows:

"The America First Committee is known as true patriotism, as opposed to the synthetic brand displayed by the Americans enrolled under the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.

"The Free American and Deutsche Weckruf und Beobachter of May 1, 1941 - Join the America First Committee and continue to bombard your representatives in Congress with letters and telegrams in protest."

[redacted] material contained a copy of Social Justice, the issue of April 28, 1941, which contained the following: b2 b7D

"Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh became a member of the America First

"Committee last week. It is the same committee under whose auspices Senator BURTON K. WHEELER speaks. It is the same committee under whose auspices Father CHAS. E. COUGHLIN would be speaking did he enjoy one half as much liberty as a priest and as a citizen as that enjoyed by Monsignor JOHN A. RYAN of the National Catholic Welfare Council.

"The Fiery Cross (the official publication of the Klu Klux Klan) issue of April 1941, quoted the Klan's attitude toward the present war situation which was aptly expressed recently by General ROBERT E. WOOD, chairman of the America First Committee."

[REDACTED] material contained a copy of "Roll Call" (publication of Silver Shirt Leader WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY) which stated the following:

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"Slowly but inexorably the true leaders of a renovated and purged America are beginning to emerge. Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, HENRY FORD, Major General GEORGE VAN HORN MOSLEY, and last but by no means least, Senator BURTON K. WHEELER of Montana, are stepping into the limelight of Roosevelt opposition and are receiving the plaudits of a hysterical multitude."

The following was cabled by Chicago Daily News correspondent JOHN T. WHITAKER from Rome, Italy, on February 6, 1941:

"The press campaign which has been waged for some days divides America into the Jews, which include - according to VIRGINIO GAYDA - the White House, the press and radio on the one hand, and what are termed 'eminent personalities' on the other. This latter category is comprised of Senator BURTON K. WHEELER, Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, PHILIP LA FOLLETTE, and Brigadier General ROBERT E. WOOD."

In a report [REDACTED] concerning the America First Committee meeting at Carnegie Hall, New York City, on September 17, 1941, it is stated that such meeting was decidedly poorer than the preceding ones; that Social Justice was on sale; and that JOHN GEIS distributed free copies of The American. Among those present were THERESA HOLM, DAN HORGAN, Reverend HERBERT LEWIS, and a substantial number of Christian Fronters and Christian Mobilizers. It was stated that the openly Nazi rabble is coming into the field in greater strength.

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Under date of September 27, 1941, it was reported that TRUMAN BLACKWOOD, known subversive, is on the speaker committee of the America First Committee. It was further noted that the franked mail of the United States Senators was removed from the literature table at the America First headquarters and packed up after the September 26, 1941, attack by the newspaper P.M. upon Representative HAMILTON FISH's abuse of the franking privilege.

In connection with the alleged foreign and subversive personnel and activities of the America First Committee in the possession of [REDACTED] were the September 30, 1941, and October 7, and 14, 1941, issues of New Masses which contained a series of articles by JOHN L. SPIVAK, and an expose of the America First Committee, LINDBERGH, MAURICE K. HART, RICHARD A. MOORE, N. DOUGLAS STUART, AVERY BRUNDAGE, STERLING MORTON, and WILLIAM R. CASTLE. Such articles by SPIVAK are entitled respectively as follows: "America First Exposed"; "What is America First Afraid Of?"; and "Secrets of America First's Propaganda."

Under date of October 6, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that Women United, New York City, were sending out notices of the America First Committee meetings on October 1, 7, and 14, 1941, with their own literature which advertised a political trip to Washington, D. C. on October 10, 1941, against changing the Neutrality Laws, and also advertising a meeting on October 6, 1941, at which speakers were to be LAURA INGALLS and FRIEDA UTLEY.

On October 10, 1941, it was reported [REDACTED] that MARIE RANLEY and BEATRICE BROWN of Women United in New York City, had recently attended a meeting in Chicago at which consolidation of other women's groups, "We, the Mothers" organizations, and Women United, with the America First Committee was discussed and practically agreed upon. It was agreed to maintain a member in Washington, D. C. for lobbying purposes, such member probably to be MARIE RANLEY.

[REDACTED] report dated October 13, 1941, stated that a recent meeting in Indianapolis was attended by PELLE and WINROD with America First Committee leaders, for the purpose of setting up a formula by which PELLE and WINROD could support the America First Committee movement without harming it.

On October 26, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that it had been stated that within a twenty-five mile radius of the New York Chapter Headquarters of subject organization there are approximately 144,000 members.

Under date of October 30, 1941, [REDACTED] reported that the Brooklyn Chapter of the America First Committee was "agogy with Christian Fronters". It was stated that there was a man regularly in the office selling copies of Social Justice. Such chapter was reported as having more than 30,000 members at the time.

Concerning the Brooklyn Chapter, and under date of November 5, 1941, it was reported by [REDACTED] that Chairman WILLIAM LEONARD was having his office staff make a duplicate of every membership card so that such may be filed in the office not only by name and address but also by congressional

districts. He is said to feel that if the place closes these can be preserved and used by the 1944 political party to which the America First Committee alludes as "The American Party", for which the committee has in mind LINDBERGH as head.

On November 17, 1941, at a meeting in Greenwich Village of that chapter of the America First Committee, the chairman presiding was EMIL MORROSSINI, Jr., formerly attorney for GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK and law partner of DANIEL F. COHALAN. It was reported [REDACTED] that the remarks at such meeting were strongly anti-Roosevelt, anti-Administration, and anti-Semitic.

In connection with the alleged Nazi and Fascist support of the America First Committee, [REDACTED] called attention to the article appearing in the February 10, 1942, issue of P.M. newspaper concerning the trial of LAURA INGALLS for violation of the Registration Act. The article states that the Nazis rated the America First Committee the best aid to the cause. It further states the following:

"LAURA INGALLS, the flier, received money from high German Embassy officials in Washington for carrying out instructions.....

"LAURA INGALL's lawyer admits German Embassy paid her to promote America First.....

"The best thing you can do for the cause (of Germany) is to continue to promote the America First Committee."

- P E N D I N G -

100-9887

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City:

Will continue investigative efforts for the purpose of determining whether the America First Committee is being kept alive and active by individuals or organizations which may plan at some time in the future to use this organization in a manner detrimental to the best interests of the United States.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

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□ (k)(1)

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☐ (k)(2)

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☐ (k)(4)

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☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

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☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information:

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-4712-443 in p. 25

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 100-515

REPORT MADE AT Sioux Falls, S. Dak.	DATE WHEN MADE 7/21/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/31; 6/9/41/24; 7/8/42.	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE O AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE IN THE SIOUX FALLS FIELD DIVISION.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] **b7D**

Names include residents in N. Dak. and in Western Minn. Chapter at Parkston, S. Dak. had 125 members. Membership of Lennox, S. Dak. chapter was about 70. No information obtained that chapter was established at Aberdeen, S. Dak. Investigation fails to disclose any present activities on the part of America First Committee in Grand Forks, N. Dak., Parkston, Lennox, Watertown, Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

- P - DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJS/ccl

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Sioux Falls, South Dakota, dated 5/27/42. **b7c**

DETAILS:

AT GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] **b7c**

The agent contacted [REDACTED] **b7D**

Further advised that [REDACTED] **b7c**

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

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2 - Chicago
2 - Sioux Falls

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the Grand Forks chapter was the only local chapter of the America First Committee in North Dakota, and that it was no longer in operation, [REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED]

Further investigation at Grand Forks, North Dakota, failed to reflect that the America First Committee is operating underground at the present time.

[REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] b7D

AT PARKSTON, SOUTH DAKOTA.

The writer was advised [REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED], that the only people he knew of who were connected with the America First Committee were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. In his opinion, the activities of the committee had ceased after the war for nothing has come to his attention that would indicate otherwise. [REDACTED] substantiated the above information. Inquiries were made to these people and to those named below [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] She stated that they had attended only two rallies before the war started, and that the committee never really got going. She added that some folks thought they didn't get their dollars worth (membership fee). It was indicated that many of these people joined to hear good speakers on the war effort and because all their neighbors were going, and that when the war started soon after the committee had gotten underway these people were disappointed that this sort of almost social activity should cease. [REDACTED] went on to say that no meetings of the committee had been held since, and that she felt that all the members of the organization were now fully behind this country's war effort. She made this response to the Agent's query as to how the local members felt about following the National policy of the committee in pledging full support to the war effort. Also, to the best of her knowledge, none of the members ever got together in-

b7c
b7D

formally to discuss the war effort; answer made in response to the query if any of the former members were informally deciding to help the war effort.

[REDACTED] He advised that the Parkston committee was composed of about one hundred and twenty-five members, covering the counties of Hutchinson and the lower part of Davison County. Most of these people came from the area directly surrounding Parkston. He stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and was disbanded very shortly after the war started. At that time all the official records of the committee were sent in to Chicago in response to the orders of the National Committee. He added that two regular meetings were held after November 1 to discuss the war effort, and that the attendance at these meetings was about forty. However, two rallies were held at which speakers were present, one of whom was REVEREND ARMSTRONG of Sioux Falls, and the attendance at these was about one hundred or more. These rally meetings were held in the Parkston theater.

[REDACTED] had made an unsuccessful effort to organize a committee in Mitchell, South Dakota, but the response was so apathetic that the effort was abandoned. This took place shortly after the committee organized in Parkston in November, 1941.

[REDACTED]

It is herein noted that the population in and around Parkston is heavily German, and that the language is commonly spoken in churches. However, these are mostly second generation Germans who are fairly prosperous farmers. From time to time this office has opened internal security cases on citizens in this community, most of which have produced no tangible results.

AT LENNOX, SOUTH DAKOTA.

[REDACTED] advised that he was familiar with the activities of the committee in town, and that the committee had a hard time getting started. He stated that one heard very little war talk around Lennox, and that after war was declared the committee folded quite completely. He added that he was never much in sympathy with the committee and so was never approached to join.

[REDACTED], advised that to the best of her knowledge there was no indication that the activities of the America First Com-

mittee had not ceased after the war started. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] went on to say that the Committee was only in existence a short time, about from October 25, 1941, before its activities ceased very shortly after Pearl Harbor.

One rally meeting was held, place not given, at which FRED CHRISTOPHERSON, editorial writer for the Sioux Falls "Argus Leader" spoke. Top attendance was reached at this rally of about seventy people. About three business meetings were held, attendance being about twenty, at the home of JOHN PLUCKER.

[REDACTED] had had a hard time getting the committee going in this community because the people generally were not interested in anything unless it brought in money.

[REDACTED] He went on to say that he became intensely interested in the activities of America First through the actions of GENERAL WOOD and COLONEL LINDBERGH whom he thought to be fine men.

Membership in the Lennox Committee was at the most about sixty to seventy people, which top figure was reached at the rally meeting at which MR. CHRISTOPHERSON spoke. These people were generally from the immediate area around Lennox, although a few people did come in from Chancellor and Davis, nearby towns. Most of the members were elderly people, and there were no young men who were members. No meetings of the committee were held at any time after Pearl Harbor.

AT ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA.

By memorandum dated May 31, 1942, Special Agent [REDACTED]

b7c [redacted] advised that he had conducted an investigation in Aberdeen, and that he had obtained no information that the America First Committee had established a chapter in Aberdeen in 1941. He also advised that there is no present indication that the America First Committee is operating underground.

AT WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA.

By memorandum dated July 8, 1942, Special Agent [redacted] advised that he had conducted inquiry in Watertown and had failed to obtain any information that the America First Committee had ever established a chapter in Watertown in 1941. Inquiry failed to disclose that the America First Committee had conducted any rallies or meetings or that any activity on the part of the America First Committee had ever taken place in Watertown. Further inquiry failed to disclose that the America First Committee was operating underground at the present time in Watertown, South Dakota.

AT SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA.

Inquiry was made by various agents of this office in Sioux Falls and no information has been obtained that the America First Committee is active at the present time, and further, no information of any sort was obtained to indicate that this organization is now operating underground.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SIOUX FALLS FIELD DIVISION:

* AT BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA, will by discreet investigation and the use of informants ascertain if the newspaper DER STATTS-ANZIGER is presently connected with the America First Committee in any underground activities.

- P E N D I N G -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. 100-6018

REPORT MADE AT CLEVELAND, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 7/20/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/18/42	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-22-90 BY SP88K/C.V.</div>			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Further contact with informant indicates Tax Study Association, while outgrowth of subject organization, is distinct from the America First Committee. Informant knows of no other activity by the former America First group.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> -RUC- </div> <p>Reference:</p> <p>Bureau letter dated June 13, 1942, captioned TAX STUDY ASSOCIATION - INTERNAL SECURITY - G.</p> <p>Report of Special Agent, [REDACTED] dated May 26, 1942 at Cleveland, Ohio.</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>[REDACTED] has advised reporting agent of the further activity of the Tax Study Association which organization as set forth in reference report is an outgrowth of the America First Committee. While many of the individuals connected with the Tax Study group are former members of the America First Committee, there is no information to indicate that the group itself is actually sponsored or connected with the former America First Committee.</p> <p>[REDACTED] was active in the former America First Committee, and has in her possession a former membership list, having used that list in connection with the Tax Study Association.</p> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED</p> <p><i>L. L. Boardman</i></p> <p>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p style="text-align: right;">DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> <p>58 AUG 11 1942</p> <p>5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 1 - G2 Columbus 1 - ONI Cleveland 2 - Cleveland</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <p>100-4712-445</p> <p>RECORDED</p> <p>INDEXED</p> <p>2 1942</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: right;"> <p>b7c</p> </div> </div> </div> </div>			

100-6018

The informant knows of no other activity by the America First Committee as such and therefore, this matter is being closed, all further investigation of the Tax Study group to be reported in a separate investigative file entitled "The Tax Study Association - Internal Security - G" Cleveland File No. 100-7765.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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100-4712-445 sub p. 3

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
July 21, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJS/c

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE IN
THE SIOUX FALLS FIELD DIVISION.
INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent
[REDACTED] Sioux Falls, South Dakota, dated May 27, 1942,
which inadvertently showed the office of origin to be Sioux
Falls, South Dakota. This is an error and the office of
origin should have been Chicago, Illinois, as set forth in
the letter to all Special Agents in Charge dated March 16,
1942.

Inasmuch as Chicago is the office of origin, an
additional copy of the above report is being furnished to
that office as an enclosure to this letter.

Very truly yours,

W. Hanni

W. HANNI c+
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure to Chicago

cc Chicago
cc St. Paul
cc Des Moines

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100-4712-446
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 23 1942
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



50 JUL 30 1942

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

LSVL. FILE NO. 100-1501

REPORT MADE AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY	DATE WHEN MADE 7/27/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/20/42	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> b7c
TITLE 0 AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-22-90 BY SP8BTS/C </div>			
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> informant, attempted to contact <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> and <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> to ascertain whether subject committee still active in Kentucky area. No evidence of subject committee's present activities.			
<p>- R U C -</p>			
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> dated 7/26/42 at Louisville, Kentucky.			
DETAILS: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">in response to a request from the writer, contacted one <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> who lives <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> in an effort to determine whether or not he was the same individual who contacted him on a former occasion, stating at that time that he was associated with the America First Committee.</p> <p><div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> advised <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> that he had no affiliation with the America First Committee; that he had never contacted <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> stated that he was sure <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> was not the same individual as the <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> who had originally contacted him, and was unable to ascertain who this first <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> was, or from whence he came.</p> <p><div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> also attempted to locate <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> who accompanied <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> upon their first visit to his home, at which time they represented themselves to be with the America First Committee. He stated that he was unable to locate <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> and his only information was to the effect that <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> was supposed to be residing in <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div>. In view of the fact that <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> was unable to recontact <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div></p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>H. K. Mearns</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 1 - Indianapolis (Info) 2 - Louisville		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 100 - 4712 - 447 JUL 29 1942 <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> </div>	
58 AUG 4 1942		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> RECORDED & INDEXED b7c </div>	

these individuals who first contacted him on behalf of the America First Committee, and since there is no further indication of activity on the part of this Committee this matter is being

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: CHICAGO, ILL.

FILE NO. 100-2651

Report made at:
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Date when
made:
7/25/42

Period for
which made
7/8, 10/42

REPORT MADE BY

b7c

TITLE:

THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJS/CL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

FREDERICK JOSEPH LIBBY presently resides at 1013 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. LIBBY was born at Richmond, Maine and is married to FAITH WARD. He studied at the Universities of BERLIN, HEIDELBERG and KARLSBURGH, Germany. He has traveled extensively throughout Europe, China and Australia. In 1921 he was elected Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Prevention of War. He is a member of the Joint Committee of National Peace and heads the Philadelphia organization of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. He is a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the War Resisters League, World Peace Ways, Youth Committee Against War and Keep American Out of War. He is pro-Nazi and advocates a United States of Europe.

AGENCY: 100-2651
REC'D: 1-24
REP'T FORW: 7-16
BY: J. B. Jones

- P -

REFERENCES:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 6, 1942, at Philadelphia, Pa. and report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 27, 1942, at Los Angeles, California.

b7c

DETAILS:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Approved and forwarded

Special Agent
in Charge

100-4712-448

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14 JUL 29 1942

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b7c

AUG 14 1942
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RE: FREDERICK J. LIBBY

Confidential Informant advised that FREDERICK JOSEPH LIBBEY was born on November 24, 1874 in Richmond, Maine, and is presently married to FAITH WARD, having been married in the month of June, 1932.

LIBBY's present address is 1013 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Confidential Informant advised that some time previous to the present date, the exact dates of which he did not know, LIBBY formerly resided in the city of Philadelphia.

According to Confidential Informant, LIBBY studied at the University of Berlin, University of Heidelberg and Marlborough University in Germany. After having completed his studies in Germany, he went to the University of Oxford, having commenced his studies there in the year 1902. He later studied at the Andover Theological Seminary. He became the Pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Magnolia, Massachusetts, during the year 1905 and continued in his Pastorial duties until the year 1911, at which time he gave up this position to travel. During the years 1911-12, LIBBY traveled extensively throughout China, Australia and Europe. From the years 1912 to 1920, he attended the Phillips Exeter Academy.

According to Confidential Informant, in 1921, LIBBY was elected Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Prevention of War. He is a member of the Joint Committee of National Peace Organization, and heads the Philadelphia organization of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. LIBBY is a member of the following organizations: The Fellowship of Reconciliation, the War Resisters League, World Peace Ways, Youth Committee Against War, and Keep America Out of War.

It was ascertained from Confidential Informant that on November 7, 1938, LIBBY spoke at the Adath Jeshurun, a Jewish Synagogue located at Broad and Diamond Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., at which time he stated that, "in order to escape war, all of France, including many Jews, backed DELADIER."

On October 16, 1939, LIBBY spoke at a meeting of the Society of Friends, a Quaker organization, at the Race Street Meeting House. At that time, Confidential Informant advised, LIBBY stated that World War Number 2, is not a war for the defense of Democracy, but a war for the defense of the British Empire. At that time, he also predicted the defeat of FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, the President of the United States.

According to Confidential Informant, LIBBY spoke at the Methodist Church located at 18th and Spruce Streets, on October 17, 1940, on behalf of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the Youth Committee Against War.

On December 16, 1940, LIBBY again spoke at the Adath Jeshurun, at which time he declared, according to Confidential Informant, "We may be able to give Britain help, but I think it is better to withhold assistance and let HITLER's power fall under its own weight."

Confidential Informant advised that [REDACTED] advised that she attended a meeting in Los Angeles, shortly previous to May 15, 1942, at which time DR. FREDERICK LIBBY made a speech to a gathering which was held in the Methodist Church, located on Figurelle Street, directly across from the University of Southern California, at Los Angeles, and she advised that a number of former America First Committee members were in attendance. She advised that those in attendance, who were formerly with the America First Committee, were Mrs. ULRICH, ANN GELLAR, MARGARET GINKLEY and Mrs. ALDRIDGE.

She stated further to Confidential Informant that during his speech, Dr. LIBBY sold two pamphlets, which he had in his possession, for the sum of fifty cents each. She described one of the pamphlets to Confidential Informant as bearing the title, "Post War World Will Move Toward Pacifism." Confidential Informant advised that [REDACTED] was unable to recall the title of the second pamphlet.

According to Confidential Informant, [REDACTED] stated that Dr. LIBBY in his speech had stated that immediate peace would be necessary, if great slaughter during the coming summer was to be avoided. He then pointed out in detail during his speech that if Communistic Russia won the present war, that all of Europe would be Communistic, and he indicated that if such were the case, a Communistic United States might follow. Dr. LIBBY then point out that we, meaning the United States, might not like either Communism or Nazism, but we must take the lesser evil and choose Nazism, rather than Communism, as only the Nazis stand between us and a Russian victory of this war.

Confidential Informant stated that according to [REDACTED] LIBBY also pointed out that if the Axis Powers won the present war, a United States of Europe would be the result. He also stated to his audience that it was his opinion that there would be a United States of Europe and that we would live to see it.

Dr. LIBBY also talked about India and GHANDI, and stated that India will never fight. According to Confidential Informant, [REDACTED] advised that during the intermission at this gathering, someone had questioned Dr. LIBBY concerning the America First Committee. In response to various questions, Dr. LIBBY said that the America First Committee should never have been disbanded. He further stated that there should be an organization among the former women members of the America First Committee and if necessary, this organization should be of a secret nature.

The following information was obtained from Confidential Informant concerning [REDACTED] and her family. b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c

It was ascertained from Confidential Informant that Mrs. IRENE THORN MURPHY, former Executive Secretary of the Philadelphia Branch of the America First Committee, is active in the Philadelphia Branch of the organization known as the "Mothers and Daughters of Pennsylvania", and that she was in attendance at a meeting held by that organization on July 15, 1942, at the Bellvue Stratford Hotel, at Philadelphia.

P E N D I N G

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will conduct investigation to determine the background and activities of Dr. FREDERICK JOSEPH LIBBY, whose present address is 1013 - 18th Street, N. W., and will also endeavor to determine whether or not he is presently making a speech tour, and if so, will obtain his itinerary, if possible.

According to information set out in the reference report of Special Agent [REDACTED], LIBBY had been making a tour of the country and came to Los Angeles between May 10, and May 16, 1942, at which time he spoke at a meeting sponsored by the University School of Religion. A lead was set out in Special Agent [REDACTED] report to endeavor to ascertain whether LIBBY is presently making a speech tour and to obtain his itinerary if possible. b7c

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Will conduct an investigation to determine the background and activities of [REDACTED] to determine whether or not their activities might be inimical to the best interests of the United States.

THE PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION

AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Will again contact Confidential Informant and ascertain any information he possesses concerning the present activities of the former officers and members of the America First Committee, and will ascertain if the America First Committee is being kept alive and active by individuals and organizations which may plan to use the organization some time in the future in such a manner as to be detrimental to the best interests of the United States.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-4712-448 in p. 7

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ORIGINATED AT Chicago, Illinois		FILE NO. 100-2293	
REPORT MADE AT Indianapolis, Indiana	DATE WHEN MADE 7-27-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/30; 7/20/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] has furnished a brief resume of activities of Indianapolis America First Committee which was obtained from MERLE H. MILLER, chairman of executive committee. This committee disbanded immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor and has never reopened its office. Terre Haute America First Committee had very little following and disbanded immediately after December 7, 1941.

b2
b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJT/CL

Reference:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Indianapolis, Indiana, June 30, 1942.

Details:

AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

On June 30, 1942, the writer contacted [REDACTED]

to obtain from MERLE H. MILLER, chairman of the executive committee of the Indianapolis America First Committee, Inc., which had office space at 30 North Pennsylvania Street, information concerning the activities of the Committee.

This informant furnished a letter [REDACTED] setting forth the activities and principles of the local chapter of this Committee. The letter was signed by MILLER and sets forth that in

APPROVED AND FORWARDED [REDACTED] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">100-4712-449</div>
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED 5-Bureau (incl.) 2-Chicago 2-Indianapolis	RECORDED & INDEXED <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">11 JUL 30 1942</div>

COPIES DESTROYED 3/16/61

ENCLOSURE FILE

COPY IN FILE

100-2298

January, 1941, "a half dozen young fellows from our local Junior Chamber of Commerce began meeting at my home in the evenings to discuss the European war situation, and particularly to see how we could best express our opposition to those measures 'short of war.'" These men decided to organize a committee and after discussion decided to join with the national America First Committee rather than attempt an independent organization. They opened a downtown office at 30 North Pennsylvania on Washington's Birthday, after obtaining the sponsorship of outstanding men in the community whose names were on the letterhead on which this communication had been written. All of these names had been obtained previously and are contained in the report of the writer dated May 17, 1942, at Indianapolis.

The first large rally of the local America First Committee was held in the Cadle Tabernacle on March 17, 1941. Senator WHEELER was to have been the main speaker but he did not appear as he was tied up in the Lend-Lease debate. Rallies were held at about three-week intervals, built around JOHN T. FLYNN, Senators CLARK and WHEELER. All of these meetings were held at the Cadle Tabernacle. Smaller meetings were held for CLARENCE MANION, STEWART CORWIN WHITE and Father O'BRIEN. During the summer, weekly meetings were held at the headquarters to which local speakers were invited. Among those who spoke were HARRY T. ICE, DOYLE ZARING, DAN W. FLICKINGER, WILLIAM F. REMY, GEORGE L. DENNY, Reverend ERROL T. ELLIOTT, and Reverend S. GRUNDY FISHER.

During this same period of time the women who were interested in the America First Committee had organized an auxiliary and conducted letter-writing campaigns, held weekly afternoon meetings, card parties, and worked up attendance at the larger rallies. The office was run by a paid secretary but women volunteers were always there mailing out literature, answering questions, and helping to organize others. Literature obtained from the national office was also passed out, and included speeches by HERBERT HOOVER, ALFRED LONDON, CHARLES LINDBERGH, ROBERT M. HUTCHINS, JOHN T. FLYNN and General ROBERT E. HOOD. Mr. MILLER forwarded to the informant copies of two types of literature which were put out by the local committee, copies of which have been obtained previously and were set out in the report referred to above of the writer.

Mr. MILLER explained that their funds were obtained from contributions from private individuals, from card parties, and from collections at public meetings. A record was kept of these collections, and a financial statement was periodically submitted. Mr. MILLER forwarded to the informant a copy of the financial statement as of September 30, 1941, which was declared by Mr. MILLER to be accurate, also for the time of closing on December 6, 1941. This statement will be set out later in this report.

The last large rally of the Indianapolis America First Committee was held at the Cadle Tabernacle on November 27, 1941, with DOUGLAS STUART, JR., MICHAEL STRANGE and PHIL LaFOLLETTE as speakers. This meeting was the climax to

100-2298

a state convention held earlier that day for the purpose of organizing all the chapters into one cohesive unit.

Mr. MILLER asserted that on the night of the attack on Pearl Harbor a meeting of the executive committee was called and the following statement was given to the papers:

"As individuals and as an organization our services belong to our government. The sole question now is how best we may unite our energies to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion."

Mr. MILLER stated that a copy of the final letter of the America First Committee was sent to the membership of about 3,000.

The executive committee of the Indianapolis chapter of the America First Committee as it appears on the letterhead of this organization is as follows:

MERLE H. MILLER, Chairman
JOHN A. BRUNN, Vice Chairman
H. BRUCE PALMER, Secretary
RALPH L. SWINGLEY, Treasurer
WILLIAM L. FORTUNE
HARRY T. ICE
GORDON CUTLER
H. BURCH MUNLEY
EDWARD J. GREEN
DOYLE ZARING
EDWARD E. McLAREN
R. STANLEY LAWTON
DANIEL J. YOUNG.

Committee members

On the second page of the letter, which was written on the letterhead of the organization, the following additional names appear as committee members:

Mrs. H. F. GILLIE, Secretary
JOHN W. ESTERLIN
FRED WELLMAN
GLENN T. BARR

The name of LYDIA BATES appeared as office secretary.

Included with the letter was a form letter dated October 24, 1941 and an inclosure entitled "A Call to Action." This matter appeared over the

name of MERLE H. MILLER, Chairman, America First Committee of Indianapolis, Inc. The leaflet urges that the individuals receiving it do what they can to oppose the repeal of the Neutrality Act. Plans as formulated by the committee included a letter-writing campaign conducted from the downtown and neighborhood offices, a weekly news service to neighborhood papers, a radio forum, a newspaper column, rallies, and meetings at the downtown office. They called for contributions so that they could accurately determine how much work they could do in the following months, and urged the people to write letters to Senator VAN NUYS telling him that his past efforts were appreciated, and that it is hoped he will vigorously oppose the repeal of the Neutrality Act. The people receiving the leaflet were asked to get five friends to write to Senator VAN NUYS, Senator WHEELER or Representative JOSEPH W. MARTIN, who was then guiding the policies of the Republican Party. People writing were to ask these men to defeat any tampering with the Neutrality Act.

The individuals were asked to volunteer their services in the drive against the repeal of the Act and states that if the people will speak now Congress will assert itself "and the battle for peace will be won."

The letter dated at 40 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, October 24, 1941, appearing over the name of MILLER as chairman of the Indianapolis America First Committee, requests money and time in order to keep this committee before the American people. It stresses the fact that this country should be kept out of the conflict in Europe and says further that they should seek to hold the President to his promises and his platform.

Obtained at the same time was a financial statement dated December 3, 1941. This statement was compiled by one of the members, who is a certified public accountant, and covers the period from February 4 to November 30, 1941, and is as follows:

SOURCE OF BANK DEPOSITS:

Membership Contributions Aggregating	\$ 3,828.05
Collections at Group Meetings, etc.	1,212.62
Profits from Card Parties, Lunches, etc.	198.70
Refund of Advances to Indiana State Committee	256.00
Total Bank Deposits	\$ 5,495.37

SUMMARY OF DISBURSEMENTS:

Office Expenses	\$1,462.40
Operating Expenses	2,068.09
Advertising Expenses	415.19
Cost of Public Meetings, etc.	769.00
Cash Advances for Expenses of State Committee	659.30
Total Disbursements by Check	5,174.18
BALANCE - Cash in Bank - November 30th, 1941	321.19

A specific statement was included to the effect that the local committee had never accepted any contribution from an unknown source, except that taken at public meetings. It also sets forth that the members would be glad to know that the national committee at Chicago was equally careful and maintained a record of every contribution and investigated the source of every contribution over \$100. In no instance had they accepted a contribution from an unknown source. It is asserted in this statement that "at the invitation of the committee the FBI has gone over all records and has commended the committee on the thoroughness of our system."

It was also stated that General WOOD had called Congressman DIES and advised him that the records were open to his committee at any time without the necessity of any subpoena and the Dies Committee has looked over those records in which they were interested.

A form letter addressed to fellow members over the signature of MILLER as chairman, dated January 12, 1942, explains the action taken by the committee in disbanding after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This letter sets forth that the committee had sold all of its equipment for about 80% of its cost and all important records had been stored in a safe place. The balance on hand, which amounted to about \$300, was invested in Defense Bonds. It stated that the action was taken solely because the course previously advocated could no longer be taken by the United States. The remark is made: "Our sole duty is to join wholeheartedly in assisting our country to travel the road that has been chosen. The letter states that although no great victory can be claimed, the America First Committee did delay the entry of the United States into the war by some six or eight months. The letter continues by advocating that all the members do what they can to aid the United States in the present conflict.

Photostatic copies were made of the correspondence above referred to and the negative and two copies of the positive are being retained in the Indianapolis file on this case. A third positive copy is being forwarded to the Bureau.

On July 20, 1942, [REDACTED] was again contacted for any additional information he might have concerning this committee and advised that he had received none since obtaining the letters and other correspondence above mentioned. b2 b7D

[REDACTED] was contacted on the same date and advised also that no additional information concerning the America First Committee of Indianapolis or any of its individual members had been received by him. b7C b7D

At Terre Haute, Indiana

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] advised that the American First Committee, even during its period of greatest activity, had a very small following in Terre Haute, and since December 7, 1941, there has been no activity conducted by the group in Terre Haute, Indiana.

[REDACTED] advised that the American First Committee has held only two or three meetings in Terre Haute at any time. These meetings were poorly attended. [REDACTED] stated he was positive this group had disbanded on December 7, 1941. b7C b7D

[REDACTED] was interviewed, and he substantiated the above information. These men all stated that NATHAN M. ELLI, [REDACTED] Terre Haute, was one of the leaders of the American First Committee in Terre Haute. They stated that this man had a good reputation and was generally believed to be reliable.

[REDACTED] He stated that the American First Committee was not very active in Terre Haute at any time. They had a very small following and there had only been three meetings of this group at the time the American First Committee was active. [REDACTED] stated that he attended a few meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

[REDACTED] declared that this Organization in Terre Haute had immediately disbanded after December 7, 1941, and there has been absolutely no activity since that time.

INCLOSURE: TO BUREAU — One photostatic copy each of correspondence received by [REDACTED] concerning America First Committee. b2 b7

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

At South Bend, Indiana

- * Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaged in any present activities.

At Gary, Indiana

- * Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

At Hammond, Indiana

- * Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

At Elkhart, Indiana

- * Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

At Evansville, Indiana

- * Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

At Indianapolis, Indiana

- * Will continue investigation of the America First Committee and its leading members.

- * Will check the incorporation records of the Department of State to ascertain if various chapters of the America First Committee were incorporated.

- PENDING -

SAY IT AGAIN, Mr. President!

Our Boys Are Not Going to Be Sent into Any Foreign Wars.

"And while I am talking to you, *forbidden* I give you one more assurance. I have said this before, but I shall say it again, and again, and again, your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars."

"I am going into training to form a force to bring about the very thing which it will keep the threat of war far away from our shores. Yes, the purpose of our service is to keep peace."

Brooklyn, Nov. 30, 1940

Ships Flying the American Flag Must Stay Out of the War Zone.

"In 1935 in the face of growing dangers throughout the world, our government undertook to maintain the neutrality which had led to war. It's made it clear that ships flying the American flag must not carry munitions or war materials, and that they must not be used as such."

New York City, Oct. 22, 1940

The Purpose of Our Service is to Keep Peace.

"I am going into training to form a force to bring about the very thing which it will keep the threat of war far away from our shores. Yes, the purpose of our service is to keep peace."

"I am going into training to keep this nation prosperous and at peace. I am going into training to keep our people out of foreign wars and to keep our government out of the United States."

Brooklyn, Nov. 1, 1940

The Purpose of Our Service is to Keep Peace.

"I am going into training to keep this nation prosperous and at peace. I am going into training to keep our people out of foreign wars and to keep our government out of the United States."

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WHAT CAN I DO?

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

America First Committee

INDIANAPOLIS

40 N. Pennsylvania

Room 1613

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-29-08 BY SP-5/CJG

ONLY the opposition of the people, through their letters to Washington, has thus far kept us out of war. Members of Congress and the President, too, are both guided and restrained by the views of the people back home. When they do not hear from you, they naturally assume that you approve their actions, and proceed accordingly.

It is your first duty as a citizen, therefore, to make known your views to your Senators and your Representative, and also to the President, on any important issue. And what issue could be more important to you and to the nation than going to war. Write this week, therefore, and follow this with other letters every ten days or so, urging that the President keep the promise that re-elected him, otherwise, "government of the people, by the people, for the people," has indeed already "perished from the earth."

The proper form of address and salutation to members of the Congress and the President is as follows:

To Senator:

Hon. _____
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator:

To Congressman:

Hon. _____
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
Dear Congressman:

To the President:

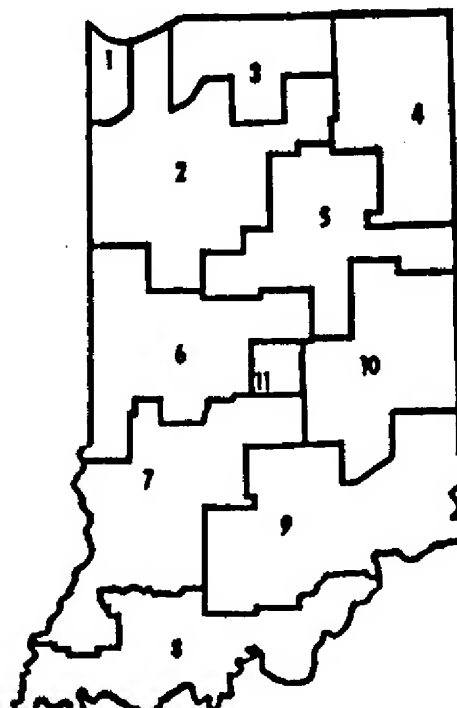
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
White House, Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. Roosevelt:



In addition to writing regularly to Washington, write occasionally to the editors of your local newspapers and express your views. Also support your local American First Committee and get your friends and neighbors to join and take an active part in the fight to keep us out of

TODAY AND EVERY TEN DAYS—WRITE TO

1. PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, White House, Washington, D. C.
2. YOUR SENATORS, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.
RAYMOND E. WILLIS and FREDERICK VAN NUY
3. YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, House Office Building, Washington, D. C.



REPRESENTATIVES

1. WILLIAM T. SCHULTZ
2. CHARLES A. HALLACK
3. ROBERT A. GRANT
4. GEORGE W. GILLIE
5. FOREST A. HARNES
6. NOBLE J. JOHNSON
7. GERALD W. LANDIS
8. JOHN W. BOEHNE, JR.
9. HARI, WILSON
10. RAYMOND E. SPRINGER
11. WILLIAM H. LARRABEE
12. LOUIS LUDLOW

OTHER KEY OFFICIALS

- SEN. TOM CONNALLY,
Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- SEN. ALBEN W. BARKLEY,
Majority Leader of Senate.
- SEN. CHARLES L. McNARY,
Minority Leader of Senate.
- REP. BOL NIOOM,
Chairman of House Foreign Relations Committee.
- REP. JOHN W. MCCORMACK,
Majority Leader of House.
- REP. JOSEPH W. MARTIN, Jr.,
Minority Leader of House.

of facts. But in addition, we must thoroughly organize our workers down through each precinct in every county in the state. We can then give a practical answer to the practical problem which confronts every representative in Congress, for we can assure him of non-partisan support to supplant what he will lose when he bucks the Administration.

We have set up a temporary state organization, composed of the existing America First Chapter in the state, and during the past month we have organized new committees in twenty counties. Plans are completed for a state convention of delegates from every county in the state, and a subsequent Mid-West Rally for all workers in the five crucial states. We have the offer of radio time, a newspaper column, and facilities for neighborhood units of our committee.

To capitalize on these opportunities, we need funds to obtain the services of a full time executive to gather in these loose ends and to accomplish in the course of a month what it would take volunteer workers six months to get done. We need to have underwritten a budget of \$1,000 a month for the next five months in

order thus immediately to expand our work. That budget will pay for:

Full time executive
Two secretaries
Weekly newspaper of 4,000 circulation
Weekly news dispatch to 400 editors in Indiana, and
Literature mailed to 10,000 persons per month

We are no longer debating abstract possibilities. When they talk of war now, it is our sons who will do the fighting and the dying. It is our sons who will have their eyes blown from their sockets or their legs torn away by a land mine as they fight in Russia, India, Egypt, or wherever a war council decides to send them.

It is not a far off European people, but you who will be living under a dictator established, as elsewhere, by a war emergency and entrenched by the greater economic emergency that inevitably follows total modern war. It is you and your descendants who will see life savings swept away by inflation, or your children struggling under an impossible debt load that robs the future of hope.

There is yet time to halt our headlong rush to destruction. One victory by Congress will turn the tide and re-establish representative government in this country. But the time to act is now. Will you help?

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE of Indianapolis

Merle H. Miller, Chairman

40 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, Ind.
Phone: Riley 1613

Samples of what your money can do

\$1,000—Finance Mid-West Convention to rally and unite workers in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois, with nationally known speakers.

\$500—Furnish for one month services of full time executive, two secretaries and their expenses for organizing here and throughout the State.

\$250—Large ad in all three local papers.

\$100—Supply all 400 Editors in Indiana with weekly news stories for one month.

\$50—Finance out of bringing outstanding speaker to World War Memorial.

\$25—Send Herbert Hoover's last speech to all Doctors or Lawyers in town.

\$10—Letter to 500 people telling why and how to write their representatives.

The Time Is NOW!

If we enter the present European destruction, future historians will tell of the fall of a free people who did not know how to use the powers they had won for themselves. Our children will wonder why the hundred million people who did not want to get into this war, did not realize that in a democracy even majorities must be organized to be effective.

The America First Committee of Indianapolis is the only local group now serving as a rallying point for those who are opposed to our entry into this war.

That our people are still so opposed is demonstrated by the vote on draft extension when both senators and twelve of thirteen representatives voted with forces opposing war. This accounts for the flurry of big name speakers of the Administration who have visited this state during the past month. They know that if Indiana wavers in its opposition, the entire country will falter.

The coming showdown calls for greater effort on our part. Letter writing must continue, as must rallies and the dissemination

INDIANAPOLIS AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, Inc.

30 North Pennsylvania Street
RILEY 1813



June 22, 1942

Board of Directors

WILLIAM FORTUNE
Chairman
JOHN W. ESTERLINE
A. E. BAKER
MRS. BRANDT C. DOWNEY
REV. C. H. McPHEETERS
ROBERT L. BROCKENBURN
JAMES I. ROSS
RAYMOND C. FOX
DAN W. FLICKINGER

Executive Committee

MERLE H. MILLER
Chairman
JOHN A. BRUHN
Vice Chairman
H. BRUCE PALMER
Secretary
RALPH L. SWINGLEY
Treasurer
WILLIAM L. FORTUNE
HARRY T. ICE
GORDON CUTLER
H. BURCH NUNLEY
EDWARD J. GREEN
DOYLE ZARING
EDWARD E. McLAREN
R. STANLEY LAWTON
DANIEL J. YOUNG

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP2BJS/L

In response to your telephone request, I am setting out a thumbnail sketch of the activities of our local America First Committee, and an enclosing such copies of our local literature as I can now readily lay my hands on. All of the records are being preserved at my home, and if anything else is particularly wanted, I believe I can find it for you.

In January 1941, about half a dozen young fellows from our local Junior Chamber of Commerce began meeting at my home in the evenings to discuss the European war situation and particularly to see how we could best express our opposition, and the opposition of others we knew, to those measures "short of war," which we felt were getting shorter all the time.

We decided to organize some sort of a committee, and after considerable discussion decided to join up with the National America First Committee rather than to try to go it alone. By this time we had had five or six meetings, so we drew up a plan and had a larger meeting in the World War Memorial one Sunday afternoon to perfect an organization and get under way.

On Washington's Birthday we opened our downtown office at 31 N. Pennsylvania Street. We had obtained the sponsorship of a number of outstanding men in the community whose names are on the margin of this letterhead as "Board of Directors." The "Executive Committee" was the younger fellows of less weight, who were to do the work.

Our first large rally was held in Cadle Tabernacle on Sunday, March 7, 1941, for Senator Wheeler, who got tied up in the Lend-Lease debate and didn't show up. We followed this with rallies built around John T. Flynn, Senator Clark and Senator Wheeler all about three weeks apart, and all at Cadle Tabernacle. We held smaller meetings for Clarence Mahon, Stewart Corwin White, and Father O'Brien.

INDIANAPOLIS AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, Inc.

40 North Pennsylvania Street

FILED 1912



-2-

MERLE H. MILLER
Chairman

JOHN A. BRUHN
Vice Chairman

MRS. H. F. GILLIE
Secretary

RALPH L. SWINGLEY
Treasurer

JOHN W. ESTERLINE

A. E. BAKER

MRS. BRANDT C. DOWNEY

REV. C. H. MCPHEETERS

ROBERT L. BROKENBURN

JAMES I. BOSS

WALTER L. SHIRLEY

DAN W. FLICKINGER

WILLIAM L. FORTUNE

HARRY T. ICE

GORDON CUTLER

H. BURCH NUNLEY

DOYLE ZARING

R. STANLEY LAWTON

DANIEL J. YOUNG

FRED WELLMAN

HARRY F. GILLIE

GLENN I. BARR

Beginning in the summer, we held weekly meetings at our headquarters, at which local speakers were invited. Many of our Committee spoke at these meetings - Harry T. Ice, Doyle Zaring, and Dan W. Flickinger. Other speakers who come to mind are Wm. F. Remy, George L. Denny, Rev. Errol T. Elliott, and Rev. S. Grundy Fisher.

During this time the women had organized an auxiliary, and were active in conducting letter-writing campaigns, holding weekly afternoon meetings, card parties, and working up attendance at the large rallies. We had a paid secretary at the office, but women volunteers were always there mailing out literature, answering questions, helping organize others. At the office we gave out literature which we purchased from the National office, including speeches by Herbert Hoover, Alfred Landon, Chas. Lindbergh, Robert M. Hutchins, John T. Flynn, and Gen. Robert E. Wood. Also, we gave out literature of our own, of which the enclosed pamphlets are samples. For a while we got out a mimeographed paper every week to our members, and distributed it to the public from our office. I do not have copies of these issues, but I probably can find some if you want them.

Our funds were derived from individual contributions of which a careful record was kept, from card parties conducted by the women's auxiliary and from collections at our public meetings. I enclose a copy of our financial statement as of November 30, 1941, which is about accurate also for our time of closing on December 6, 1941.

Our last big meeting was held at Cadle Tabernacle on Sunday afternoon, November 27th, with Douglas Stuart, Jr., Michael Strange and Phil LaFollette as speakers. That was the climax to a State Convention held that morning at which we attempted to organize all the chapters in the State into one cohesive unit.

The night of Pearl Harbor, a meeting of the Executive Committee was called, and the following statement was given the papers:

"As individuals and as an organization our services belong to our government. The sole question now is how best we may unite our energies to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion."

LYDIA BATES
Office Secretary

ENCLOSURE

100 - 4712 - 449

INDIANAPOLIS AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, Inc.

40 North Pennsylvania Street

RELY 1613



-3-

MERLE H. MILLER
Chairman

JOHN A. BRUGH
Vice Chairman

MRS. H. F. GILLIE
Secretary

RALPH L. SWINGLEY
Treasurer

JOHN W. ESTERLINE

A. E. BAKER

MRS. BRANDT C. DOWNEY

REV. C. H. McPHEETERS

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JAMES I. BOSS

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GORDON CUTLER

H. BUNCH MUNLEY

DOYLE ZANDIG

R. STANLEY LAWTON

DANIEL J. YOUNG

FRED WELLMAN

MARRY F. GILLIE

GLEN L. BARR

Our office never reopened. A copy of the final letter sent to our membership of about three thousand is included herein.

These are the main high-lights that I recall now. I may have left out something of importance, but not intentionally. If you desire any further details, I will be glad to supply them.

Very truly yours

Merle H. Miller

MMH:NT
Encls.

LYDIA BATES

Office Secretary

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE OF INDIANAPOLIS
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJS/GC

January 12, 1942

Dear Fellow Members:

In the month that has passed since war was declared and your Committee closed its doors, we have sold our chairs, mimeograph and other fixtures for about eighty-five percent of what they cost us, we have stored all of our important records in a safe place, and we have invested our balance on hand of about \$300 in defense bonds. We have taken this action solely because the course which we had advocated can no longer be taken by our country. Since there is now only one choice, no possible good could come from debating further any other alternatives which cannot be taken. Our sole duty is to join wholeheartedly in assisting our country to travel the road that has been chosen.

But while the future commands all our energies and attention, I cannot put aside the temptation to take one glance back at the work of our Committee. We do not find there any great victories to celebrate for we lost on every major issue. No part of the program which we advocated was ever adopted, and the most that we can claim to have accomplished was the delaying of our entry into this war by some six or eight months. We can all hope that during that period our defenses have been strengthened as everyone advocated.

We had together a band of patriotic Americans who, despite defeat, worked without stint for a cause in which they believed and which was becoming daily more unpopular. There were women who worked day after day in our office addressing envelopes, folding literature, and writing letters. There were those who worked among their friends, those who called on the telephone, spreading word of our meetings. There were men who gave of their time to plan our rallies to handle our publicity, to write letters, to solicit contributions, to do the weary drudge work that is a necessary part of every activity. Then there were those many members who could not work directly for us in our office, but who spoke out for our cause when it would have been discrete to remain silent, those who attended our meetings when it would have been easier to stay at home, those who prayed for our success. Without the continued support of all of these we could not have carried on. To have been a member of such a courageous, unselfish group should be one of the great experiences of our lives.

Today we are told that our country faces a crisis which will try the mettle of our people and call for all the stamina and courage that has built here a great nation. We may feel sure that those who displayed the courage of their convictions in 1941 will not be found wanting in courage in 1942. This war will be won by a calm, resolute people, whose enthusiasm will not fluctuate and whose determination will not vary. We have shown ourselves to be that type of people.

We all hope that out of the suffering and sacrifice attendant on this war, there may emerge a better world - a more decent place in which to live. The blueprint for that better world has not yet been generally formulated. But this we do know: any chance for a better world is now absolutely dependant upon our winning this struggle. To that essential victory let us each dedicate every ounce of our energies and our resources.

Sincerely yours,

40 . . Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 24, 1941

Dear Sir:

However you may feel about intervening in the present European war, you will be interested in the enclosed story of the America First Committee. Other committees have been formed to stop our drift toward totalitarianism at home, but a withering blast from the President and a few deft swipes with the tar brush and they folded.

The America First Committee grows stronger with each blast and smear. The reason is not hard to find — for our membership consists of mothers and fathers seeking to save their sons, persons who saw this whole thing happen before and want to avoid a similar tragedy again, young men who want the same chance their fathers had to work for a separate destiny for America, independent of the bloody feuds of Europe.

You can see that these types of people would not be scattered by denunciations or smears. And particularly are they steadfast when they reflect that this policy they advocate is the one followed by this country throughout its history except for 1917-1918. Our principles are taken from the wisdom of Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, on down to the platform of both major parties a short year ago and the promises of both candidates for President during that campaign. We seek to hold an American President to his promise and to his platform. To say that we thereby become the tools of Hitler is to say that the makers of those promises were tools of Hitler a year ago, which we do not believe.

If you find you cannot agree with us, we hope your sense of fair play will cause you to look us over carefully. We believe you will find that we are actuated by the same high love of country and desire for her safety and future that you are.

If you do agree with our principles, then give us a hand before it is too late. Give us money so we can tell our story to more people. Give of your time to help us at whatever you do best — speaking, writing, publicity, organizing, planning and determining policies.

Most of all — be willing to stand and be counted, on this grave issue. Men of that type won your independence for you in 1776 — it will take men of that type to preserve it in 1941.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJC/L

Sincerely,

Merle H. Miller, Chairman
America First Committee of
Indianapolis, Inc.

A CALL TO ACTION

Our long-awaited chance has come. In the past every step towards war has been cloaked with words of peace. But they cannot contend this time that to repeal the protective features of the Neutrality Act is a step in the interests of peace. It remains for the American people to speak now on the clear issue of war or peace.

We are prepared to go into action and win this campaign with your help. We need your contribution, as suggested by other literature herein, in order to pay printing and mailing costs of literature. As a suggestion, how about giving us one hour's pay each month? Many, of course, will be able to give more. And many of our people are working full time every day without pay, in the interests of peace. If you can spare an hour's pay -- you will make their work more effective.

Our plans include a letter-writing campaign conducted from our downtown office and from neighborhood offices, weekly news service to neighborhood papers and papers throughout the state, a radio forum, a newspaper column, rallies, noon and night meetings at our downtown office. But all these plans depend for their success upon the support and help that we can get from each member. Here is what we ask you to do:-

1. Fill out the enclosed card and mail it to us with your contribution, telling us what we can count on each month so we will know how greatly we can enlarge our activities.
2. Write a letter to Senator VanNuys, telling him you appreciate his past efforts to keep this country out of war, and that you hope he will vigorously oppose the repeal of the Neutrality Act.
3. Get five of your friends to write to Senator VanNuys, Senator Willis, or Representative Joseph W. Martin who is now guiding the policies of the Republican party. Ask these men to defeat any tampering with the Neutrality Act. Make a special effort to get people to write who have never written before.

When you have done this, call our office at Riley 1613 and offer your spare time services in this big drive. We have lots of jobs in our office and in your neighborhood. If each one can feel his individual responsibility in this great effort, our success is assured. Congress is anxious to regain the role it should play in a democracy. If a sizable portion of the people will only speak now, Congress will assert itself and the battle for peace will be won. It will only take one such victory to turn the tide, and stop once and for all this talk of some men about sending some other men to Russia, Africa, India, or wherever fancy might choose. We can do it. Let's go!

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Marle H. Miller, Chairman
American First Committee of
Indianapolis, Inc.

AMERICA FIRST NEWS
Indianapolis, Indiana
December 3rd, 1941

We know you will be interested in the financial statement of our Committee. We have kept a careful record of every cent that has come in and, likewise, of all expenditures. One of our members, who is a Certified Public Accountant, has looked over our books and has compiled these figures. They are, of course, mere summaries and, in case you are interested in a breakdown of any particular item, we have an itemized statement at the office which we will be glad to show you. The statement covers a period from February 4th to November 30th, or operations of approximately ten months.

SOURCE OF BANK DEPOSITS:

Membership Contributions Aggregating.....	\$ 3,828.05
Collections at Group Meetings, Etc.....	1,212.62
Profits from Card Parties, Lunches, Etc.....	198.70
Refund of Advances to Indiana State Committee...	<u>256.00</u>

Total Bank Deposits ----- \$ 5,495.37

SUMMARY OF DISBURSEMENTS:

Office Expenses.....	\$ 1,462.40
Operating Expenses.....	2,068.09
Advertising Expenses.....	415.19
Cost of Public Meetings, Etc.....	768.00
Cash Advances for Expenses of State Committee.....	<u>459.50</u>

Total Disbursements By Check..... \$ 5,174.18

BALANCE - Cash in Bank - November 30th, 1941 ----- \$ 321.19

While we are on the question of finance, we want to make clear that your local Committee has never accepted any contribution from an unknown source. We do not know, of course, the contributor of each quarter in the basket at our public meetings, but otherwise we have an entry in our books for every contribution. For example, the item "Membership Contributions", above, represents 647 individual contributions.

You will be glad to know that the National Committee at Chicago is equally careful, and they have not only recorded every contribution but also investigated the source of every contribution over \$100.00. In no instance have they accepted a contribution from an unknown source. At the invitation of the Committee, the FBI has gone over all records and has commended the Committee on the thoroughness of their system. General Wood has called Congressman Dies and advised him that the records were open to his committee at any time without the necessity of any subpoenas, and the Dies Committee has looked over those records in which they were interested.

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DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BJS/CL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 100-233

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO**

REPORT MADE AT OMAHA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-14-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-14, 21-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8B/C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **STANLEY LONE, JR., organizer of America First Committee, University of Nebraska, [REDACTED]** **b7c b7D**

[REDACTED] States no attempts made to keep the organization and former principles alive.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of SA **[REDACTED]**, Omaha, 6-12-42. **b7c**
Report of SA **[REDACTED]**, Omaha, 6-20-42.

DETAILS: At Blair, Nebraska

[REDACTED] **b7c b7D**

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED Mr. B. Rhodes	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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[REDACTED] b7c

At Omaha, Nebraska

[REDACTED], was contacted at her home and she advised that she was formerly associated with the American First Committee in Omaha. [REDACTED] Temporary Chairman, FRANK C. WARD, in attempting to get a local group going, but that war had been declared before a real organization had been formed. Since the organization was still in a formative stage, no meetings were ever held, and war was declared before the organization really began to exist.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FRANK WARD had hoped that the National Committee would send a speaker to Omaha, as they had done in other cities, at which time the group would become a reality, but up to the time of declaration of war, this was not done.

b7c
b7d

[REDACTED] advised that she had previously been very much against war, and that she had feared that the United States was headed toward involvement in the European conflict. After we were attacked, she felt that there was no other alternative other than win the war, and she knew that isolationist principles could not survive. She said that she had feared war, because of the hardship and suffering it would cause in this country, especially among the young men of military age.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that she had felt that the America First Committee was composed of some of the most outstanding and patriotic Americans in the United States, and praised the wisdom of the National organization, in requesting that all membership lists be transmitted back to the National Headquarters, where they would not be available to any subversive group. She advised that no attempts have been made to keep isolationist sentiment alive in Omaha.

[REDACTED] was reported on January 16, 1942 of making the statement that, "ROOSEVELT is sending the boys to be murdered", although it was not ascertainable whether this statement was made before or after the declaration of war.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In view of the fact that there is no indication of any activity in the America First Committee developed, it does not appear necessary to conduct any more investigation.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION

TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-1036**

REPORT MADE AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	DATE WHEN MADE 8-3-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-27, 30-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation at Newport News, Virginia failed to disclose that subject organization attempted to organize in this immediate vicinity.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BTJ/c

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 12, 1942 at Norfolk, Virginia. **b7c**

DETAILS:

AT NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

[REDACTED] advised that he had heard of the America First Committee but does not recall the organization ever having attempted to organize in this vicinity. [REDACTED] stated that he had been in public life for sometime and felt sure that if this organization was present or had endeavored to organize he would have been cognizant of it.

[REDACTED] advised that subject organization had never attempted innovation or their organization in Newport News, Virginia and felt that in view of the nature of this area that an organization such as the America First Committee would have a rather difficult time. He stated that with all the defense workers here, the military and naval branches of the government also present in great numbers, an organization such as this would have no show. He stated that he felt sure that if this organization had endeavored to organize in Newport News he would have been advised of it.

RECEIVED 22 AUG 11 1942

[REDACTED] advised that he had

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10 AUG 4 1942

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heard of subject organization in other parts of the country but had never heard of it being in Newport News or this area, nor had he heard of it attempting organization. [REDACTED] stated that he had always noted that this area was not a fertile field for organizations of this type in view of the number of service men in this area. b7c

[REDACTED] advised that subject organization had never been in this area, nor had they ever attempted organization. [REDACTED] stated that he has always been on the lookout for any and all organizations and felt sure that he would have known of it if the America First Committee had endeavored to organize here.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-1077**

REPORT MADE AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	DATE WHEN MADE 8-6-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-11-24-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation at Wichita, Kansas, reflects that there are no known activities of the America First Committee at the present time nor have there been any open activities of this group in the past in Wichita, Kansas.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BTS/CL**

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Kansas City, Missouri, dated 8-22-42. b7c

DETAILS:

[REDACTED] was again interviewed regarding the nature of the group which he had information was being for under the leadership of [REDACTED] stated that he had been informed that this group was known as the United Native American and although it appeared to exclude members of the Jewish race that an invitation had been extended one of his intimate friends, [REDACTED] Wichita, Kansas, to join the organization by [REDACTED] further stated that he believed that this organization was not connected in any way with the previous American First Committee but that it might possibly be an organization similar to the former Ku Klux Klan. For further information concerning this [REDACTED] referred the writer to [REDACTED]

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b7c
b7D

[redacted] when contacted stated that he had received information of the organization of a group of individuals, consisting of business men in Wichita, which was no doubt identical with the group mentioned by [redacted] that this group, headed by [redacted] and [redacted] had attempted to establish the organization with a view of promoting protection in war industries in the City of Wichita and that there had been only one meeting of the group at which meeting contributions were accepted for organization purposes. [redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted] attended the meeting and was one of the contributors. He stated that it has been his information that since this meeting no action has been taken by this group nor has any disposition been made of the funds which were collected by contribution at the meeting.

It was also indicated that [redacted]

[redacted] might also be able to furnish information regarding the identity of this group.

[redacted] when contacted stated that he had been active in civic affairs in Wichita over a number of years and that in the fall of 1939 he had been contacted by [redacted] a local business man in Wichita and an unknown individual at which time he was approached with a proposition of accepting a salary of \$12,000.00 a year to be the head of a state wide organization based upon the lines of the Klu Klux Klan. [redacted] stated that he turned down the offer at the time and stated that as far as he has been able to determine there has been no further activity in formulating any such group in Wichita in recent months.

[redacted] stated that he had never known of the American First Committee being active in the City of Wichita and believes that if had been active it would have come to his attention.

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War - "The America" & "The Court" will give U.S. a long hard War" He has stirred up lot of Strife

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

A young Man on Furlough said in the Camp in Calif. Lindberg spread two papers brought them in Camp those his agents with the City Papers in whatever Camp they were wrapped in outside City Papers on outside. These Millionaires should be treated as Traitors. Take all their Businesses away from them use for Government

Our Boys pay with their Blood and Young Lives for such Hitherto.

I have an only Son in it and my American Blood fairly boils for such Traitors. Our Youth has not had a chance for work & livelihood, but, now such Traitors can hide behind their Blood. Think and Act Swift and Help our Men at Home

Yester a True Mother

WAKE UP Negro America

DO YOU WANT WORK?

DO YOU WANT EQUAL RIGHTS?

DO YOU WANT JUSTICE?

THEN PREPARE NOW TO FIGHT FOR IT!

25,000 Negroes Must Stor

THE AIR-COOLED

AUDITORIUM

14th and Market Sts.-Admission Free

FRIDAY NITE, AUG. 14 - 7 P.

DEMANDING JOBS AND PROTESTING

1. Mobbing and Shooting Our Boys in Uncle Sam's Uniforms
2. Lynchings at Sikeston and Texarkana.
3. Jim-Crow St. Louis War Plants and Labor Unions.
4. Violation of Pres. Roosevelt's Order No. 8802.
5. Jim-Crow Policy of the Navy, Army and U. S. Marines
6. Insult of the Red Cross in Segregating Negro Blood.

SPEAKERS:

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, Founder of March Movement.
WALTER WHITE, Executive Sec'y., National N. A. A. C. P.
M. P. WEBSTER, Fair Employment Practice Committee.
The Aldridge Players and The Celestial Choristers.

BLACKOUT!!
8:00 to 8:15 P. M.
AUG. 14th

MOBILIZE NOW!

WE ARE AMERICANS TOO!!

IT IS NO
OR NEVER

MARCH ON WASHINGTON COMMITTEE

Headquarters: 712 Finance Bldg. - 11 N. Jefferson - FR.

D. McNEAL, Chairman

THELMA GRANT, Sec'y.

We Fight For Live, Work and Die For Democracy As EQUALS

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DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BTJ/col

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Milwaukee FILE NO. **100-2936**

REPORT MADE AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN	DATE WHEN MADE 8/18/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/27; 7/1/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED], has been distributing literature of the Constitutional Educational League. Occupation listed as a lecturer, and receives his compensation from the Constitutional Educator of New Haven. Nothing definite could be proven that the Constitutional Educational League is a continuation of the America First Committee.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BTJ/C L**

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Charlotte, North Carolina 5/27/42.

DETAILS:

AT MADISON, WISCONSIN

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] has been distributing literature for the Constitutional Educational League. He further advised that [REDACTED] would be able to give more information concerning [REDACTED]

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SPECIAL AGENT
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[redacted] states he has known [redacted] since he has been in the [redacted] Building and that [redacted]. He stated that he was aware that [redacted] had been distributing literature for the Constitutional Educational League, but could not understand why someone had not put a stop to it, inasmuch as the literature [redacted] was distributing was detrimental to the morale of the country at the present time.

He further stated that he could not understand how [redacted] could afford to pay his rental and other miscellaneous expenses, inasmuch as he had no visible means of income. [redacted] stated that [redacted] spent very little time in his office, using it more as a storage space for his various types of literature.

[redacted] stated that the book, "Why Win The War" which was distributed by [redacted] was undermining the morale of the people at this time, and felt that something should be done to prevent the distribution of this type of literature. He stated that the people in the [redacted] Building were more or less suspicious of [redacted] but were at a loss to determine just how and where he received his income and what his purpose was.

The records of the [redacted] were searched and reflected that [redacted] was listed as a lecturer and received compensation from the Constitution Educator of New Haven. [redacted]

During the course of the investigation nothing definite could be proven to indicate that the Constitutional Educational League is a continuation of the America First Committee.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILL.

FILE NO. 100-2827

REPORT MADE AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	DATE WHEN MADE 8-21-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8-4, 6, 11-42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Local chapter of the America First Committee organized at Roanoke, Virginia in October, 1941 and disbanded immediately after U.S. became involved in present conflict. No efforts made to reorganize group and no indication of subversive activities on part of former members. Letterheads showing list of temporary officers obtained.

*1942
4/25/41*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BT:
b7c CoC

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
Richmond, Virginia, dated June 2, 1942.

DETAILS:

AT ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

In November, 1941, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] brought to the attention of the reporting agent that members of the America First Committee had circulated in that building a pamphlet, the purpose of which was to keep this country out of the present conflict. When interviewed on August 4, 1942, relative to any further activities on the part of the America First Committee, [REDACTED] stated that no further pamphlets are distributed in that building and [REDACTED]

*b7c
b2*

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> Special Agent in Charge	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100 4-7-2 453 20 AUG 22 1942	RECORDED & INDEXED b7c
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b7D

that she had heard of no activity on the part of the America First Committee since the United States became involved in the war. She further stated that it was her understanding that a [REDACTED] had been active in this committee, although she was not positive of his connection with the organization.

She also stated that a [REDACTED] of Roanoke, Virginia, had taken an active part in the few meetings which this committee held prior to the time that the United States became involved in the war. In closing [REDACTED] stated that she does not believe that any attempt has been made to reactivate the America First Committee in Roanoke.

[REDACTED] advised that he was in no way connected with the America First Committee during its period of activity in Roanoke and that he has heard of no recent activity on the part of this organization.

[REDACTED] advised that she was a member of [REDACTED] committee of the Roanoke Chapter of the America First Committee, which chapter was formed early in October, 1941. She further stated that the organization never did elect permanent officers, although RALPH W. SHCAF was the temporary president and Mrs. H. FRANK TAYLOR was the acting secretary.

Continuing [REDACTED] stated that this organization met only four or five times prior to the time that they had disbanded, shortly after war was declared on December 7, 1941. She stated that the committee had its meetings at the Patrick Henry Hotel and to the best of her knowledge the usual attendance was twenty to twentyfive.

She went on to say that as a member of the Roanoke Chapter of the America First Committee, she was primarily interested in keeping the United States out of war and that all members of the Roanoke Chapter were sincere in their belief that the present war conflict could have been settled without the involvement of this country.

[REDACTED] stated that she had not seen any mail of any individuals or organizations regarding the America First Committee and that she was sure there had been no attempt to bring the group to life in June.

She added that inasmuch as war was forced on this

country there was no point in continuing with this organization.

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[redacted] advised that he personally did not have any connection with the America First Committee although [redacted] was a member of the Steering Committee of this organization. This man went on to say that the America First Committee had not been thoroughly organized at the time the United States became involved in the war, at which time the local chapter did not continue with its plans of formation. He stated that [redacted] was definitely sincere in his efforts to keep this country out of war and this was his only reason for joining the America First Committee. He added that the America First Committee had only a few meetings between the first part of October and the first part of December. An effort was made to secure a large hall in Roanoke for a large meeting at which a prominent speaker from the National Headquarters in Chicago was to appear. [redacted] stated that [redacted] made a \$100 deposit at the Roanoke auditorium in order to obtain this hall, however, this meeting did not materialize prior to the war was declared and in accordance with instructions from the National Headquarters, the local chapter disbanded right after the declaration of war. The hall was not used and [redacted] was not able to recover his \$100.00.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] had been subjected to additional expense to print up letterheads for the local chapter and after the local organization disbanded, the other former members refused to share this expense with him.

In closing [redacted] stated that he is positive that there has been no attempt to bring the organization to life again, and that [redacted] has not received any literature which would indicate that an attempt was being made to use former members of the local chapter in any subversive manner.

[redacted] presented the writer with two letterheads which were drawn up for use by the local chapter. The following temporary local officers were listed on these forms:

RALPH W. HOAF	President
Mrs. F. L. TICE	Vice-President
H. B. BABER	Treasurer
Mrs. B. FRANK TAYLOR	Recording Sec'y

The following are listed as members of the Steering Committee:

100-2827

Mrs. FELIX K. PARKER

HENRY T. SWANN

Mrs. ARTHUR L. STRAS

Mrs. JAS. J. GEARY

G. V. KROMER

J. D. BROOKS

The following quotation from Voltaire also appears on the letterhead:

"I do not agree with one word you are saying ...
but I will defend to the death, your right to say it."

These letterheads are being retained in the file of the Richmond Field Division.

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He stated that in joining the America First Committee he sincerely believed that this country could be kept out of the war and that he had no other purpose for joining the organization. He added that the Roanoke chapter of this organization met at the Patrick Henry Hotel several times between October and December, 1941, but at the time war was declared the organization definitely disbanded and that there has been no activity on its part since. He added that he had received no literature regarding the organization and that there has been no attempt to bring it to life again.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BJS/CL

100-4712-456
CANCELLED

392
58 SEP 8 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

BUTTE FILE NO. **100-1760**

REPORT MADE AT Butte, Montana	DATE WHEN MADE 8/27/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/10, 16; 8/18/42	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; margin: 5px 0;"></div>
TITLE AMERICA FIRST			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

HARRY H. MILLER, Director, America First Committee, Billings, Montana, [redacted], advised [redacted] that President ROOSEVELT was responsible for the Navy's debacle at Pearl Harbor; that the United States should retract its declaration of war against Japan, Germany, and Italy, and sue for peace; that Japan did not harm this country but struck at something which was rightfully hers, and that we are in a war in which we have no business to be in. [redacted]

[redacted] MILLER is presently treasurer for the China Relief organization, Billings. He advocates financial aid to China.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8 BTJ/cl
319519

- RUC -

AGENCY *116 Armer*
 BY *gjm*
 REPT. BY *2-15-50*

References:

Bureau letter to Butte dated March 16, 1942.
 Report of Special Agent [redacted]
 Butte, Montana, June 13, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div style="text-align: center;">[Signature]</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">100-47712-457</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">22 AUG 31</div>	RECORD INDEX
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Chicago 4 - Butte		<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin: 10px auto;"></div>	

Details:

b7c It will be mentioned that information with regard to [REDACTED] was set forth [REDACTED] in reference report.

b7c A review of the files in the Butte Field Office disclosed that under date of December 17, 1941, [REDACTED] called at the United States Marshal's Office, Federal Building, Billings, Montana, and advised that HARRY MILLER, President, National Bonds, Inc., is [REDACTED]

b7c [REDACTED], MILLER, when discussing the war, bitterly denounced President ROOSEVELT and said that he was responsible for the Navy's debacle at Pearl Harbor. MILLER then stated that the United States should retract its declaration of war against Japan, Germany, and Italy, and sue for peace, and that Japan did not harm this country, but that she struck at something which was rightfully her. He further advised that MILLER stated [REDACTED] that this country had nothing to lose, and that we were in a war when we had no business being in it, and that Japan would take the Philippine Islands in sixty days.

b7c [REDACTED] stated that MILLER definitely conveyed the impression that the United States could not win, and that he said that President ROOSEVELT had prodded Japan into war through the lend lease program. According to [REDACTED] MILLER said that the United States should give China to Japan. [REDACTED]

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AT BILLINGS, MONTANA

[REDACTED], and that MILLER has taken a prominent part in the America First Committee, and is also the Treasurer for the China Relief organization at Billings, Montana. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. He stated that MILLER is a professed isolationist and that during the Month of September, 1941, he spoke at an America First Committee rally which was held at the Billings High School; that at this rally Senator BURTON K. WHEELER of Montana was the featured speaker. He stated that the theme MILLER used during his talk was that there was no sense in sending our young men to foreign countries where they would be slaughtered; that MILLER frequently referred to bloody and gory sights which he himself witnessed as a soldier on foreign soil, presumably at France during World War No. 1.

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b7C [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], and that MILLER by way of explanation advised that financial assistance to China is all right, but that we should not send our armies to foreign lands to fight wars of foreign countries.

It will be mentioned that the Billings Gazette of both the morning and evening editions were checked to determine if the contents of speeches made by speakers at the America First Committee rally which was held at the Billings High School on September 18, 1941, were set forth, and at this time it was ascertained that the names of the speakers only were mentioned, and that the contents or substance of no speech were set forth in these editions.

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b7C [REDACTED]
He stated that MILLER is an ex-service man, and that he is friendly with Senator WHEELER of Montana. He stated that prior to December 8, 1941 (the date on which Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese), MILLER had a display of America First Committee propaganda in the show window of a small vacant store located next to the National Bonds, Inc., at 217 North Broadway, Billings, Montana. He stated that on the morning after the Pearl Harbor Attack, he walked past this window where the display had been shown for a considerable time, and that at this time he discovered that MILLER during the night removed all evidence of America First Committee literature from this window where it had previously been on display.

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b7C [REDACTED]
In conclusion, he advised that MILLER is a staunch Republican, and that he is bitterly opposed to the present administration and many of the things the present administration has espoused and put into action.

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b7D [REDACTED] stated that he has known MILLER for the past five or six years, and that he knows him to be very angry and antagonistic toward the present administration.

[REDACTED] stated that he has known MILLER for several years, and stated that he is an ardent Republican who is much opposed to the Democratic Party in general and to the present administration in particular.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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100-4712-457 in pp. 4-5

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